

4 dead, 40-50 hurt in Paris metro bomb

PARIS (R) — Four people were killed and at least 40 injured when a bomb exploded aboard an underground railway train in central Paris, French Prime Minister Alain Juppé told reporters on the scene. The blast occurred aboard a suburban express train at the Saint-Michel station close to Notre-Dame Cathedral. The explosion was caused by a bomb, the Paris Public Prosecutor's office said. Mr. Juppé, speaking to journalists at the site of the attack, paid homage to those killed and expressed "the government's concern for the wounded." He also paid tribute to the "quality of the intervention" by police and fire-fighters. Parliament Speaker Philippe Seguin, speaking on behalf of the National Assembly, expressed his "profound distress" at the attack. He called for a moment's silence at a meeting of parliamentary officials held to discuss the legislature's agenda. Rescue officials said blast occurred in the last carriage of a train and that some of the seriously injured remained trapped more than an hour after the blast. Casualties were transported by helicopter and ambulance to hospitals in and around Paris.

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50 killed in fierce battle in Iraq

NICOSIA (AFP) — At least 50 people were killed in a fierce battle between rival Kurdish factions for control of an area near Arbil in northern Iraq. Foreign aid workers said Tuesday. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) unleashed an artillery barrage late Monday on positions held by its rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) about 40 kilometers north of Arbil. "At least 50 people died in this clash where the attacking faction used heavy artillery," a senior official from a U.N.-affiliated aid group said. Aid workers said they believed the PUK was trying to cut off the KDP headquarters in Salihuddin, a hilltop resort 30 kilometers northeast of Arbil. The KDP charged, in a statement received in Cyprus, that the PUK had lost more than 25 fighters in repeated attacks on KDP positions east and northeast of Shqulawa on the road between Arbil and Zakho since Sunday. "The PUK forces numbered a few thousands and supported with artillery and rockets launched a two-pronged military offensive."

Jordan Times

An independent Arabic political daily

Journalism without borders

جورдан تايمز يومي

7 girls drown in Nile

CAIRO (AFP) — Seven girls drowned in the Nile River after their motorboat capsized while taking them to their village in the Delta. Egyptian police said Tuesday. The Girls, who were nine to 15 years old, went daily to Giza south of Cairo where they worked in farming and would return home every night to their village in the Menufia region. A total of 30 girls were on the boat, which was carrying more than its legal capacity when it capsized on Monday night, officials said. An investigation has been opened involving the boat's two owners, police said.

8 Muslim Brotherhood members arrested

CAIRO (AP) — Eight members of the Muslim Brotherhood movement have been arrested in the Nile Delta area, raising to at least 35 the number in custody, police officials said Tuesday. The eight were detained Monday in Kafr El-Sheikh, 130 kilometers north of Cairo, said the officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

FIS leader begins hunger strike

PARIS (AFP) — One of the main leaders of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abdelkader Hachani, launched a hunger strike in the prison where he is being held, the Arabic daily Al Hayat reported Tuesday. The London-based paper quoted Mr. Hachani's attorneys in saying that he was ill and had begun his hunger strike Sunday to protest a decision preventing him from seeing his family or lawyers. Mr. Hachani, president of the FIS provision executive body, had taken part in recent negotiations between the FIS and Algerian authorities, who blamed him for the failure of the talks two weeks ago.

10 dead, 15 wounded in Bujumbura

BUJUMBURA (AFP) — Ten people have been killed and 15 wounded in a possible revenge attack Monday in the Burundi capital Bujumbura, national radio announced Tuesday. Armed men opened fire on two buses carrying Hutus, the ethnic majority in the country. It was apparently in reprisal for an attack on Friday at the Mutanga University campus which left eight dead, including four Tutsi students. The ambush happened Monday afternoon in the north of the city, on the road to the airport, while the bus was heading for the mainly Hutu-populated Buterere district, radio reports said. No further details were available.

Tamil rebels ambush military patrol

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tamil rebels ambushed a military patrol, killing four soldiers and injuring five in northwestern Sri Lanka on Tuesday, military officials said. The soldiers were returning from a night operation when they were attacked shortly before dawn at Illavankulam village in Puttalam district, 145 kilometers north of Colombo. The attack came several days after the Tamil rebels threatened to kill thousands of Muslim civilians unless they flee Puttalam town by Aug. 1, police said. "We need only an hour to turn Puttalam into a forest of dead bodies as we did in Kattankudi and Eruvur," the rebels said in a letter sent to political and religious leaders on July 18 in Puttalam town. Most of the 27,000 people in the town are Muslims.

Serbs conquer Zepa

NATO seeks deal on airstrikes plan

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb soldiers entered the town of Zepa Tuesday as government defenders of the U.N. safe area fled into the surrounding hills pledging to continue defence of the enclave, according to the international war crimes tribunal Tuesday. Mr. Sochacki said the meeting was being held to discuss the Zepa crisis.

"We can confirm that Bosnian Serb soldiers are in the town of Zepa which appears to be deserted. The Bosnian army, however, no longer seems to be there," Myriam Sochacki, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

Bosnian government radio reported that the Zepa local defenders had retreated into the surrounding hillsides. "Holding the main part of the (enclave) the Bosnian army can continue its defence," the radio stated.

A U.N. military team that reached the enclave early Tuesday was able to watch Serb soldiers entering and leaving the town freely, Sochacki said. "There is no resistance," she said.

Hasan Muratovic, a senior government figure, said some civilian representatives had remained behind to negotiate with the Serbs on the evacuation of women and children.

He said the men in Zepa would not surrender. "We have never surrendered because we know that if they did that they will all be killed," he said.

"Close-by to the Eastern Bosnia enclave the commandant of the campaign against us," he said.

"We want to be done by UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force)," it is not acceptable to us that the Serbs transfer these people from Zepa," he said.

When Serb forces overran the eastern enclave of Srebrenica July 11, thousands of women and children were bussed out of the U.N. safe area without supervision. A U.N. spokesman, Alexander

Ivanko, said on Tuesday: "There is little doubt that some cases of severe human rights abuses occurred (during this operation)."

Thousands of men are believed to be in Serb hands after their forces took the enclave. Hundreds more fled the advancing troops, fleeing across Serb held mountainous terrain to central Bosnia and safety.

Mr. Muratovic said discussions of a PoW exchange had been underway for several days and continued on Tuesday. "We want an all for all agreement whereby all the men from Zepa and Srebrenica are exchanged for the 4,500 Serbs we are holding," he said.

Bosnian Prime Minister Harris Silajdzic asked UNPROFOR to provide an air-lift of the men from the enclave. Mr. Ivanko said this could only be done with the consent of the Bosnian Serbs which most observers admit is unlikely to be forthcoming.

Mr. Muratovic, the minister responsible for relations with UNPROFOR, said he was confident that a PoW agreement would be reached. "I think we will get an agreement. It is not good for anybody but what else can be done?"

In Zagreb, an official Croatian source confirmed the Croat assault and said it was intended in part to relieve pressure on the Bosnian government enclave of Bihać to the northwest of here, invaded by rebel Serb forces from Croatia a week ago.

Serb military sources in the western mountain town of Drvar said the Croat artillery and rockets started pounding Serb-held Glamoc area overnight and an infantry assault ensued at dawn.

The fighting, described as

the heaviest in months,

erupted after Serb forces

made big gains to the north in an offensive on the govern-

ment enclave of Bihać, seizing 80 square kilometres of territory in an incursion from Serb-held Croatia.

Meanwhile, NATO's

attempt to agree on plans to

stop Bosnian Serb attacks on

safe havens were stalled.

(Continued on page 7)

Opposition plans sit-in as House starts debating law ending Israel boycott today

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Islamist deputies and opposition parties intend to stage a sit-in today in front of the Lower House of Parliament to protest the House's discussion of a draft law that ends the economic boycott of Israel.

The 16 Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies are also considering boycotting the Wednesday session because they say the session would end up with the endorsement of a very dangerous law.

"What is being done is wrong. It means we are giving up our land and our country," said IAF deputy Hamman Sa'eed. "We are against the law in principle and we are not willing to take part in the discussion."

Dr. Saeed said the front was studying its options of whether to boycott the session or not since participation in the discussions over the 1995 draft that ends economic boycott of Israel "are incompatible with our principles."

"We have presented our objection to the law in a written memorandum. Engaging in the House's discussions is futile... anyway, the majority (needed to endorse the law) is there," he added.

Opposition deputies at parliament could only manage 21 votes against 46 votes in favour of referring the draft law to the joint financial and judiciary committee for discussions at the start of the House current extraordinary session in June.

The draft, which has been amended by the 34-member joint committee last week, allows sale of foreign land to foreigners but under strict conditions.

The amendments condition land sale to foreigners with

reciprocal treatment. Article six of the draft stipulates that ownership of Jordanian land is permissible for foreigners if they have laws that allow land sale to Jordanians.

Some centrist, leftist and Islamist deputies who opposed the draft argued, when the House referred the draft to the joint committees, that the Israeli government owns 93 per cent of the land in the Jewish state and bans the sale of private land to foreigners.

They said that the Israeli real estate market is closed to all foreigners and Jordanian land should not be sold to them accordingly.

The joint committee, which met last Monday, introduced several amendments including making land sale conditioned to a cabinet approval. The amendments also included a clause banning Jordanians who own

land in the West Bank and Jerusalem from selling to Israelis.

"The amendments introduced are superficial," said Dr. Sa'eed. "Conditioning land sale to Israel with reciprocal treatment is invalid since Israeli laws allow land sale to foreigners through minimum. And giving the authority to the government to have the final decision in these issues is also rejected. It should be the law and not the government that has the final say."

If the draft was approved, three laws that ban dealings with Israel are eliminated. These are: a 1973 law that bans land sale to Israel; a 1958 law that boycotts Israel; and a 1953 law that bans trade with Israel.

Eleven opposition parties

also announced they will stage a sit-in in front of parliament this morning.

PLO, Israel to resume talks despite Monday Tel Aviv blast

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli leaders said they would renew peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

As Jewish state buried five elderly victims of a bus bombing on Tuesday the day Palestinian and Israeli leaders had hoped to reach accord on expanding Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

In the wake of the bombing, which further eroded public confidence in the peace process, Israeli officials expressed urgency on resuming talks and reaching an agreement on the much-delayed expansion.

Uri Savir and Ahmad Qureia, the top Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, were to meet Tuesday night to discuss where and when talks would resume.

The talks were suspended Monday when a bomb exploded on a commuter bus in front of the high-rise Tel Aviv Diamond Exchange, killing five Israelis.

A sixth body was believed to be that of a suicide bom-

ber, but police said no identification had been made by Tuesday evening. Police released a picture showing the bearded man's bloodied face.

Eran Etzion, an aide to Mr. Savir, stressed that the suspension was purely out of respect for the victims and that Israel was anxious to return quickly to the talks.

"There is a sense of urgency," he said.

Israel Radio said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wanted to nail down an agreement quickly. "We are all interested in quickening the talks, both us and the Palestinians," Mr. Rabin spokesman Aliza Goren said.

Mr. Qureia agreed the deadly attack should give new impetus to reaching an agreement. "The alternative would be bloodshed," he told the Associated Press.

Israel and the PLO had originally set a July 1 target date for expanding autonomy — which began 14 months ago in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho — to other parts of the West

Bank. After that date passed, negotiators said they hoped to sign an agreement on July 25.

No new deadline has been set. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the talks would resume Wednesday somewhere in Europe, but PLO leader Yasir Arafat said he wanted the talks to stay in the Middle East.

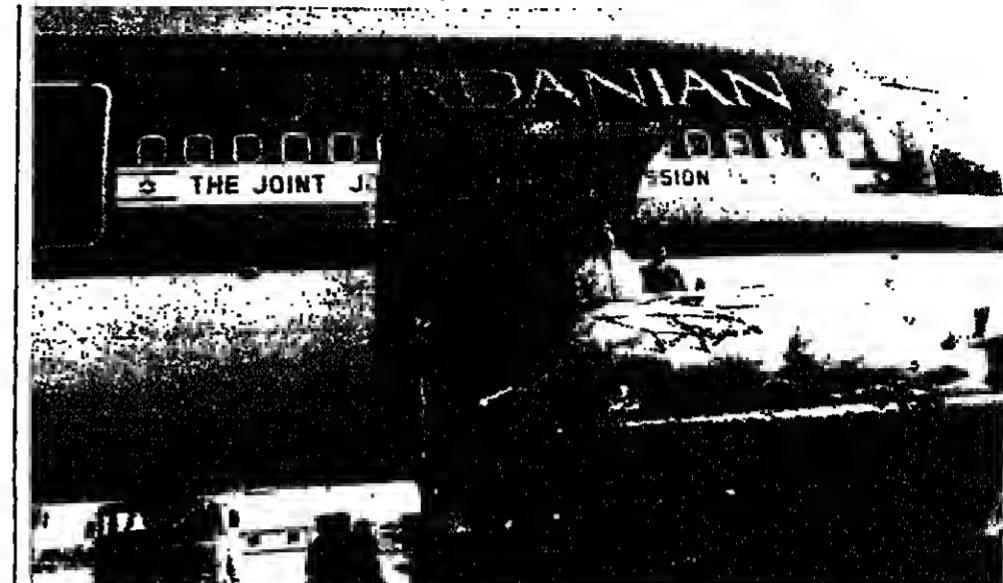
The Maariv daily published a poll taken after the bombing that said 52 per cent of Israelis believed the peace talks should not continue, while 37 per cent believed they should. The poll of 509 Israelis had a margin of error of 4.5 per cent.

Callers to media organisations, including the Associated Press, claimed the bombing was carried out by the militant Islamic group Hamas. But unlike after past attacks, when militant groups have released videotapes of the suicide bombers and praised them as martyrs, none has formally claimed responsibility for the attack.

Possibly as a result, there was no large-scale crackdown against suspected militants by Israel or the PLO, as after previous attacks.

Etzion said the Palestinians fear Monday's attack will lead Israel to toughen its security demands.

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan talk to part of the first Jordanian-Israeli joint mission to provide humanitarian assistance to Croatia on board a Royal Jordanian plane carrying humanitarian aid to Yousef 'Allan'.



Jordan, Israel launch joint relief to Bosnia

King expresses hope other countries will follow suit

Prince Hassan accompanied relief plane in expression of solidarity with Bosnians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Israel Tuesday sent two relief planes for Bosnian Muslims in an operation described by His Majesty King Hussein as part of joint Jordanian-Israeli efforts to relieve the victims of aggression.

The joint mission coincided with the first anniversary of the Washington Declaration.

Saying that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was the first leader to respond to King Hussein's call for aiding the Bosnian people, King Hussein said: "The slogan of us all... Arabs and Jews, Jordanians and Israelis, is working together for the humanitarian causes in the world."

Both planes, each laden with 21 tonnes of medical equipment, tents, blankets, clothing, food and other humanitarian supplies, took off from Amman and Tel Aviv at almost the same time and later landed at Split airport in Croatia, close to Bosnia.

"We hope that our joint effort will be copied by others in the world to whom we say that there should be joint endeavours in performing duty at the humanitarian level without any discrimination," said King Hussein.

"We advocate and seek a just, honourable and lasting peace for this region, which we hope will be realised soon despite attempts on the part of some elements who try to abort or disrupt the peace process from time to time through unacceptable and unreasonable practices," continued King Hussein.

It is hoped, said the King, that the two planes will be returning to Jordan and Israel carrying wounded children for treatment.

Referring to his contacts with world leaders to discuss alleviating the sufferings of the Bosnian people, the King said he has written to the Turkish and Pakistani presidents and sent messages to King Hassan of Morocco and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt expressing hope that these countries will help find a formula for ending the Bosnian tragedy.

This is not the first Jordanian plane with relief supplies to King Hassan of Morocco and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, expressing hope that these countries will help find a formula for ending the Bosnian tragedy.

Jordan has some 3500 troops serving in the United Nations protection force in the former Yugoslavia, the third largest contingent after France and Britain. Most are based in Croatia. Amman has threatened to pull out the forces if Serb attacks are not halted by the world community.

Israel's ambassador to Jordan, who was at the airport at the departure ceremony, urged Bosnia's Serbs and Muslims to follow the footsteps of Arab and Israeli peacemakers.

"We here in the Middle East are doing everything to solve our problems through peaceful means and let them follow this example and end the killings," he said.

The aid is to be handed over to Jordanian U.N. peacekeepers in Split, Croatia who would transfer it to Bosnian refugees.

Jordan, which last week raised \$6.5 million for Bosnian refugees, said that Tuesday's shipment was worth JD 400,000, nearly \$600,000.

Meanwhile, Prince Hassan told a press conference upon arriving in Croatia that the joint Israel-Jordanian mission, which came to relieve the Bosnian people, coincided with the lapse of one year following the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

This joint mission from the Middle East to the world at large carries a peace message and underlines the importance of the human dimension.

(Continued on page 7)

Muslim nations outraged by Bosnian Serb advances

NICOSIA (Agencies) — In Sudan, tens of thousands marched in the streets to protest the latest Serb advances against Bosnian Muslims. In Malaysia, the prime minister declared he would sell weapons to the embattled Muslims, defying U.N. embargo.

His Majesty King Hussein said he was so fed up with Serb attacks that he was willing to join Jordanian peacekeepers already in the former Yugoslavia.

Across the Muslim World, leaders have bitterly denounced the ongoing Bosnian Serb offensive and described the United Nations and the Western response as pathetic.

However, it was unlikely that Muslim outrage would translate into immediate, large-scale weapons shipments to the outgunned Bosnian Muslims.

The Serb attacks are "a blatant affront to the feelings of Muslims everywhere and a clear ridicule of the Islamic World," Saudi Arabia's government said Monday following a cabinet meeting chaired by King Fahd.

Cairo's Al Ahrar newspaper was even more blunt in an editorial Tuesday: "You coward, infidel and criminal world... move to rescue the innocents and stop the tragedy."

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the grouping of more than 50 Muslim countries, said over the weekend that its members should no longer respect the U.N. ban on shipping guns to Bosnia.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad announced that his country was prepared to start selling weapons, though he gave no details.

"Malaysia and the OIC will be the light of the world in restoring justice in (Bosnia)," Malaysia's Defence Minister Sayed Hamid Albar said Monday.

Islamic leaders have made many such calls previously, but the Bosnian Muslims have never been able to obtain heavy weapons on a level comparable to the

Serbs.

Iran, long suspected of secretly sending weapons to Bosnian Muslims, "denounced the U.N. and the West for their 'deadly silence' in the face of Serbian advance."

The U.N.'s apathy toward the events in Bosnia will make other nations totally abandon their trust in this organisation," Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani was quoted as saying on state-television.

Western threats of air strikes and other stepped-up actions against the Serbs are seen largely as idle threats in most Muslim nations.

"The Serbs have received many warnings," said As Safir, a Beirut newspaper. "The Western warning has become meaningless."

In Sudan's capital of Khartoum, protesters called Monday for an Islamic army to defend the Bosnian Muslims.

During the march in the blistering heat, demonstrators carried banners reading "the killing of Bosnian Muslims is a U.N. strategy" and "death to the Serbs, shame on the West."

While direct military support to Bosnia has been quite limited, some individual Arabs have gone to fight against the Serbs.

Sixteen Arabs were killed in a battle last Friday near Sarajevo, according to Kuwait's Al Watan newspaper, which praised Adel Al Ghanem, a Kuwaiti who was among those "martyred."

Meanwhile, several countries began delivering fresh aid supplies to Bosnian Muslims in Bosnia with arms.

The weekly Saudi cabinet statement, as reported by SPA, expressed the kingdom's "full support" for the "contact group's" recommendations and "continued commitment to offer support to the Muslim Bosnian people on the official and public levels."

It said Saudi Arabia, home to two of Islam's holiest shrines, had recently granted the Bosnian government 50 million euros (\$13 million), in addition, to more than 800 million euros (\$215 million), in Saudi public donations.

King Hussein said Friday that "I personally am willing to join" the U.N. peacekeeping force.

Arafat happy to be a father

GAZA (R) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, long regarded as the father of the Palestinian cause, was smiling for joy Tuesday about the birth of his first child Zahwa at a Paris hospital.

Asked about his feelings, Mr. Arafat said: "Like any father would."

Mr. Arafat's 32-year-old wife Suha gave birth Monday to a 2.45 kilogramme (5.4 lbs) baby girl named Zahwa after Mr. Arafat's mother. She is the first child of the 65-year-old guerrilla-turned-peacemaker.

"The child and her mother Suha Arafat are doing well," said a statement from the American Hospital in Neuilly just west of Paris. Zahwa weighed in at 2.45 kilogramme (5.4 lbs) after a caesarean delivery at 7:42 p.m. (1742 GMT).

"For Suha Arafat this child conceived in Gaza shortly after Mr. Arafat's return to this autonomy Palestinian territory a symbol of hope and of peace for Palestinians," the hospital statement said.

"This child will be like all others, she will share the joys and the sorrows of Palestine," it quoted Suha Arafat as saying.

"Happiness must strike

ers in the former Yugoslavia, where 3,200 Jordanian troops are stationed.

The statement was made during a television talk-show designed to raise money for Bosnian refugees.

Saudi Arabia urged Muslim states Monday to give "all forms of support" to Bosnian Muslims and to back an Islamic group's declaration that a U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia was "invalid."

King Fahd urged Muslim states to back recommendations of a Bosnia "contact group" of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) which met last week.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the king as saying Muslim states should "provide all forms of support, material and moral, to the people and government of Bosnia to enable it to safeguard its independence and sovereignty..."

Others, speaking in the name of fugitive Hamas bomber Yehiya Ayash, blamed Israel for failing to release Palestinian prisoners, including jailed Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

Ayash, 30, is a West Bank chemist who was reportedly trained by Iran and who is suspected of orchestrating five suicide attacks — including the Oct. 19 bus bombing in Tel Aviv that claimed 22 lives.

A senior PLO official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Yasser Arafat's police force had not found Ayash despite a massive search.

The timing of the attack and the target appeared to part of the message.

It came a day before Israel and the PLO had hoped to wrap up an agreement on expanding self-rule to the West Bank and resulted in Israel calling a temporary halt to negotiations held in a Dead Sea resort hotel.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the talks will resume after the funerals

The location was also

important — the heart of Israel's wall street where diamond merchants, stockbrokers and investment bankers work in a cluster of gleaming skyscrapers. It drove home the point that no place is safe from the long arm of Hamas' revenge.

"Israel bears responsibility for everything that is happening, especially regarding its continued detention of prisoners, the provocation of settlers, and the closure," said Imad Falouji, a Hamas spokesman.

The attack broke a long respite in suicide bombings. The last was April 9, when bombs were set off near an Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip, killing seven soldiers and an American tourist.

PLO police chief

Hamas fighters seek to make their mark, wreck peace.

By Nicolas B. Tatos
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The Islamic resistance movement Hamas and a master bomber known as "the engineer" have been linked to Israel's latest suicide bombing.

Their goals are straightforward: to wreak revenge on Israel and force Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to recognise Hamas' power.

A caller claiming to represent Hamas told the Associated Press that the attack was in response to Israel's failure to meet deadlines in negotiating a withdrawal from West Bank towns and the recent killings of Islamic activists.

Others, speaking in the name of fugitive Hamas bomber Yehiya Ayash, blamed Israel for failing to release Palestinian prisoners, including jailed Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

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Disarmament commission for N. Ireland gets cool reviews

BELFAST (AFP) — Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams was sceptical Tuesday of an Anglo-Irish proposal for an international commission to oversee decommissioning of arms in Northern Ireland, calling it a back-door way of securing unilateral IRA disarmament.

"We don't know what the British mean by that," said the leader of the Irish Republican Army's political wing. "I have to say I don't know."

"I am loathe to get involved in what is at this time a lot of speculation," Mr. Adams said, a day after Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew put the idea after a meeting with Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring.

Mr. Adams said the proposal represented no progress because it was built on the British insistence that all-party talks on Northern Ireland peace be contingent on the IRA's laying down its weapons and explosives.

"It's very important to note and underline the fact that Patrick Mayhew yesterday reiterated the British government position that there could be no movement towards all-party talks unless the IRA decommissions some of its weapons," he said.

"If that's the case, that (an international commission) is meant to be a non-starter."

"So, I have to ask them, is this commission a fiction, a device or an idea to bring about a decommissioning of IRA weapons in order to fulfill a British government precondition," Adams said.

The possibility of creating

an international commission to supervise the terms of disarmament in Northern Ireland emerged from three hours of talks in Belfast between Sir Patrick and Mr. Spring.

"We've discussed a number of matters, and a commission, in the context of decommissioning, has been one of these. There are sensible grounds for being hopeful it can be resolved," said Sir Patrick.

"It's one of the options we've been looking at," added Mr. Spring. "We haven't reached conclusions yet so it wouldn't be wise to elaborate but we have to look at all possibilities, all modalities of what is a very complex problem."

It was the first time the concept of international supervision has been aired openly at the same time by two top British and Irish ministers.

Four months ago Mr. Spring said it was possible to envisage a role for international organisations such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) or Scandinavian countries to help disarm Ulster's paramilitary groups.

The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) published a document proposing a type of commission which would be made up of international military experts as well as representatives from the British and Irish governments.

Sinn Fein official Mitchell McLaughlin said earlier, "All ideas, all suggestions for re-

solving the impasse would be seriously looked at by all those seriously interested in finding a solution."

Despite 11 months of ceasefire between the IRA and Protestant paramilitary organisations, both sides have ruled out a unilateral disarmament.

Both London and Dublin, conscious of the impasse, have resolved over the past several months to surmount the problems by working in tandem on proposals that would realise a disarmament.

Meanwhile, a 26-year-old British army barracks that was one of the most frequent targets of IRA attacks until a ceasefire took effect a year ago was demolished Monday as part of the drive for peace in Northern Ireland.

The red-brick barracks in the Catholic district of Falls Road was the first built by the British in West Belfast when London sent troops to Northern Ireland in August 1969.

It was also the first to be taken out of service when the Irish Republican Army declared a ceasefire on Aug. 31 of last year.

"Hopefully it is the beginning of the total demilitarisation of all army barracks in the six counties" that make up Northern Ireland, said a Sinn Fein leader who witnessed the demolition.

The barracks, located in the Falls Road area but also near the Protestant, pro-British Shankill Road district, will be replaced by a "peace line," or wall between the two neighbourhoods.

Since relative peace came

to Northern Ireland year ago, more than 1,000 British soldiers have left the province, and several military barracks have either been demolished or decommissioned. A total of 17,500 British troops remain.

In a separate development, a Protestant hall in County Armagh was extensively damaged in an arson attack early Tuesday, the latest in a spate of arson attacks on more than a dozen so-called Orange halls this month, police said.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said states were removed from the roof of the building at Mountnorris and flammable liquid was poured inside and set alight. The roof and interior of the hall were badly damaged.

The Orange Order has about 100,000 members, making it the biggest single Protestant organisation in the British province where it is seen as an embodiment of the loyalist community's determination to hold on to its traditional freedoms and privileges.

Elsewhere, a 54-year-old man and his two sons in their 20s were saved by smoke alarms when petrol bombs were thrown into their home, starting a blaze in the living room.

They were asleep in the house at Kilbeg Close, Antrim, when the pre-dawn attack was launched. The alarm woke them and they found the living room curtains, carpet and an armchair ablaze.

The family put out the blaze before the fire brigade arrived.

Mexico rebels open 5th round of peace talks on wrong foot

SAN ANDRES LARRAIN-ZAR, Mexico (AFP) — Government and rebel representative began their fifth round of peace talks blaming each other for the lack of progress in the negotiations.

The government accused the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) late Monday of delaying a decision on the rules and procedures for the talks, which were first brought up three months ago.

An official statement also rejected a new Zapatista proposal to set up some sort of buffer zone between government and rebel forces in Chiapas by creating a special corridor in the region where guerrilla forces would withdraw.

The statement charged the rebels with using this issue in the talks as a delaying tactic and said the rebels were "lacking in sincerity... to see concrete results" in the talks.

The Zapatistas, in turn, issued a statement early Tuesday calling the charges "government lies," adding that their proposals were in line with negotiating principles.

The Zapatistas got some backing to their demand that the negotiations address social and political issues on a national scale, when a representative of a religious mediating panel said that the problems in Chiapas had repercussions around the country.

However, a Zapatista leader at the talks identified only as Comandante David, was critical of the government and warned that "we will continue fighting with our



A Chapas peasant girl stands near Mexican soldiers as she forms with other residents a peace cordon around the meeting place where the Mexican government and the Zapatista rebels resumed their negotiations (AFP photo)

weapons and our hands" for justice, democracy and liberty.

The Zapatista rebels first rose up against the government Jan. 1, 1994 demanding better economic and social conditions for the state's impoverished ethnic-Maya majority.

The rebels later demanded democratic political reform on the state and national levels.

In April, the government and the EZLN, led by masked commander Subcomandante Marcos, agreed to make this small Chiapas town the headquarters of their dialogue and set out to tackle the issues.

All previous negotiating sessions broke off without agreement.

African leaders discuss food shortage

KAMPALA (R) — Six African leaders met in Uganda's capital Kampala Tuesday to work out a plan to feed the millions of hungry people in the world's poorest continent.

It will be a tall order. Wars, political instability and poor weather have wrecked crops across Africa, according to reports presented to the delegates.

Up to 200 million of Africa's 700 million people are faced with starvation, conference documents said. Between 60 and 70 per cent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa is malnourished.

The presidents of Mozambique, Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Uganda met behind closed doors with delegations from at least six other countries to examine proposals on how to ensure Africa's poor at least have enough to eat.

African scientists met at the weekend to work out a

strategy on the problem to present to the heads of state. They are expected to agree Tuesday on a strategy on food security and improving nutrition for the next 10 years, organisers said.

In January this year, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said in a report that although food supplies in Africa had improved, many areas devastated by drought and war still relied on foreign handouts.

FAO said 28 African countries will require food aid of up to 2.3 million tonnes in 1995 — 20 per cent below last year's total thanks to improved harvests.

But the situation in Burundi and Rwanda, torn by ethnic violence and insecurity, remains critical.

Dry weather delayed plantings in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe and western parts of South Africa's grain-growing belt, the FAO added.

French party's secret cash 'is legal'

PARIS (R) — France's government-coalition Republican Party confirmed Tuesday that a judge investigating alleged political corruption had found 2.4 million francs (\$500,000) in cash in a safe when he searched its headquarters.

It said the money came from secret funds from the prime minister's office and denied it had been used to fund the recent presidential election campaign.

Party treasurer Jean-Pierre Thomas said in a statement that the money, in 500-franc notes, was entirely legal. He denied published reports that he had told the judge it was left over from the April-May presidential campaign.

But his brief statement did not explain how the party came to have the cash in its coffers or what its real purpose was.

Judge Eric Halphen discovered the money last Thursday in a safe when he raided the centre-right party's offices looking for clues to alleged kick-backs from public works contractors in the Paris region.

Mr. Thomas said in a statement: "The Republican Party wishes to point out that the money in question came from secret funds at the disposal of Matignon (the prime minister's office) in accordance with the law. These sums were in no way related to any presidential campaign."

The Defence Ministry here did not immediately confirm the reports, but the mass-circulation United Daily News and the China Times, quoting unnamed military sources, said medium-range Dong Feng-21 ballistic missiles were fired early Monday.

China's missile tests near Taiwan are not "promoting stability in the straits," a ranking U.S. official said Monday.

On Monday and Sunday China said Mr. Lee's "private" overseas trips between February 1994 and June 1995 were actually moves to win international recognition for an independent Taiwan.

He said Chinese authorities have told the United States: "these are normal military exercises that always take place."

Mr. Lord, addressing a gathering of foreign journalists, was asked about earlier comments suggesting that Taiwan did not seek to become a free country nor officially relations in Taiwan.

They (Taiwanese government officials) clarified... that they would like official relations," Mr. Lord said. "That, of course, is not going to happen."

Ishamuddin placed his seven-year-old brother on the vertical portion. The small boy clambered up to the top, balanced himself for a few

seconds and slid back down. As the crowd clapped hesitantly, Ishamuddin relaxed and the rope slithered back into the basket.

"Fantastic," breathed a well-dressed middle-aged woman.

Ishamuddin was more positive. "There is nothing such as magic," he said. "It's a straightforward, simple trick. The rope gets spoilt by rainwater. It would have been much better if it hadn't rained."

As sceptics examined the muddy earth and the inert rope, some spectators said they were disappointed.

"The rope wasn't long enough," said a 27-year-old woman airline sales executive. "The great Indian rope trick should have the rope disappearing in the sky."

Others were sceptical. "I saw the guy behind him pulling at something as the rope rose," a 20-year-old British tourist said. "There must have been an underground tunnel or something. You could see him moving his

hands."

"The rope was too thick," an Indian journalist complained. "It could have motorised or magnetised."

Ishamuddin said he decided to do the rope trick after he found the British Magic Circle had offered £25,000 (\$40,000) and an American Association of Magicians \$10,000 to anyone who could successfully perform the ancient feat.

"Necessity is the mother of invention and I needed the money to better my family's condition," said Ishamuddin, who comes from a family of magicians. "I want my many brothers and sisters to be able to study."

Legend has it that the rope trick was performed centuries ago by magicians who lit bonfires, added hashish and opium to the flames, and created illusions of a vertical rope.

Ishamuddin said he first heard about the rope trick from his grandfather. "Some books say it is a hallucination," he added.

"I want to perform it fully for the general public in September with all its variations," Ishamuddin said. "Then I can demand the prize."

Taiwan, China fire practice missiles

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan and China staged rival military exercises in the East China Sea Tuesday, but Taipei called for a ceasefire in verbal sparring and a resumption of cross-strait talks.

The Taiwanese Navy began firing artillery shells some 20 nautical miles off the northeastern coastal village of Suao in what Central Daily News reported.

The Taiwanese drill is scheduled to end Friday, the same day as China's week-long exercises with surface missiles nearby.

But military officials here asserted the drill had nothing to do with China's exercises, while the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) party called on China to resume cross-strait talks and stop its daily verbal attacks on Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui.

A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Taiwan's manoeuvres are a routine exercise and have nothing to do with China's ongoing missile drill near Taiwan's Pengciayu Island.

The source, however, declined to give the number and type of the ships and weapons used, and the Defence Ministry and the navy headquarters were reluctant to confirm the reports.

On Tuesday Mr. Lee defended his moves to seek international recognition of Taiwan saying the island "cannot survive" otherwise.

He added that as head of state, "even though I am criticised and smeared by others, I must still maintain a strong faith. If the state leader does not have faith, how can he lead others..."

Taiwan now maintains offi-

cials ties with only 30 nations, mostly Latin American and small Pacific island nations.

KMT spokesman Hanlon Chien urged China to halt its daily attack on Mr. Lee, saying charges in the official Communist press that the president sought Taiwanese independence were untrue.

The Chinese Communists should realise the facts of the split and separate rules by different governments of the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, and reopen the negotiation channel in order to maintain friendly cross-interactions," Mr. Chien said.

Government spokesman Jason Hu also told the Central News Agency, "the promotion of pragmatic diplomacy by the government is not equivalent to promoting Taiwan's independence.

"It helps the continued survival of the country and will benefit future reunification of the two sides of the Taiwan Strait," he added.

China said Mr. Lee's "private" overseas trips between February 1994 and June 1995 were actually moves to win international recognition for an independent Taiwan.

Beijing has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province since the KMT fled there after their defeat on the mainland at the end of the 1949 Chinese Civil War, while the KMT in Taipei still considers themselves the legitimate government of all China.

Mr. Lee's U.S. trip in June especially irked Beijing, which retaliated by suspending high-level, semi-official talks with Taiwan and then announced it would be conducting its missile drill just north of the island.

NEW DELHI (R) — A jostling crowd pressed forward expectantly as a dark, bearded man clad in black silk and a bone necklace and flanked by blazing logs stuffed a thick rope into a basket to the rhythm of beating drums.

The great Indian rope trick was executed successfully in the 14th century according to the organisers, was about to be performed.

He was executed himself in 1953 after losing a power struggle following Stalin's death in March of that year.

Mr. Bobrev said Beria found a deadly poison on human guinea pigs for use in Soviet assassination operations abroad, a Russian newspaper disclosed Tuesday.

Judicial sources said Mr. Beria was questioned as a witness at a police station at Chiari, near the northern town of Brescia, where the investigation into Judge Di Pietro is based.

During his stormy seven months in office last year, Mr. Beria clashed repeatedly with Milan's pool of "clean hands" magistrates to

allegations of abuse of power and that he used his position to secure a loan and help a friend, Eleuterio Re, win a job as head of Milan's traffic police.

The head of the Di Pietro inquiry, Brescia prosecutor Fabio Salamone, was quoted by La Stampa newspaper as saying.

"I'm interested in Mr. Berlusconi because of the public differences he had with the pool and because of what he said on Tempo Reale about the investigation into him. Other than that, I really don't see anything against him" in the case.

Stalin aide 'founded' poison death lab

MOSCOW (R) — Lavrenty Beria, feared security chief of dictator Josef Stalin, tested deadly poisons on human guinea pigs for use in Soviet assassination operations abroad, a Russian newspaper disclosed Tuesday.

The experiments were carried out by white-coated "doctors" on selected convicts already awaiting execution for crimes, the Kremlin newspaper Vesti said.

"A quick death was a good result, a slow one was bad," the newspaper said quoting Vladimir Bobrev, a former aide to the then chief military procurator, in an interview.

Beria, who headed the NKVD

World News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995, 5



Chechen people shake their fists and shout slogans demanding the independence of Chechnya during a rally in Grozny. Negotiators attempting to resolve the seven-month-old conflict.

in Chechnya emerged from "very productive" talks claiming they were on the verge of signing a political accord (AFP photo)

Kashmir kidnappers may have shifted hostages

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Snow and rain may have forced Muslim rebels holding five Western tourists to abandon the upper reaches of the Himalayas and search operations have begun in southern Kashmir, police said Tuesday.

A police officer in the mountain resort of Pahalgam, where the two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian were kidnapped last month, told AFP that Indian troops had extended

their search to the southern portion of the state. "A search team came to know from local residents that they (the kidnappers) and the five hostages) were spotted a few days ago above the village of Tral," sub-inspector Bashir Ahmad said.

"We hope to have positive results in a few days," he said.

Mr. Ahmad and other police officers said the kidnappers, members of the Muslim separatist group Al Faran, may have moved the

hostages after fresh snowfall, heavy rain and a steep drop in temperature in the mountains of Pahalgam.

Until now, troops had concentrated their search for the five tourists to the Pahalgam area. A photograph of the captives released by the militants nearly two weeks ago showed the hostages against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks.

Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings were kidnapped while trekking near Pahalgam on July 4, German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro were abducted in separate incidents four days later.

The Indian government Monday ruled out releasing imprisoned Muslim militants to win the freedom of the five tourists.

"There is no question of releasing any militant (in exchange for the abducted tourists)," Home Secretary K. Padmanabhaiah said in the Indian government's first categorical rejection of a militant-for-tourist swap.

Speaking in New Delhi, the home secretary also said a claim by Al Faran that two hostages had been injured in a gun battle with Indian troops last week was a fabrication.



Indian troops patrol the deserted town of Pahalgam where Kashmiri Muslim militants abducted five Western tourists over three weeks ago. The separatists have threatened to kill the captive if the Indian authorities do not release 21 top Muslim separatists from prison (AFP photo)

Rao: Congress must preach reforms to win polls

SURAJKUND, India (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao kicked off major brainstorming meeting of his Congress Party Tuesday urging senior leaders to dispel popular fears that his economic reforms were anti-poor.

Mr. Rao said at the start of a six-day meeting of party leaders and workers that while most opposition parties had endorsed his economic liberalisation programme, many Congress members had failed to accept or even understand its worth.

"If you are not convinced about our economic policy it's useless to expect you to dispel the confusion in the voters' minds," he told more than 10,000 supporters at Surajkund, site of an ancient pond near Delhi dedicated to the Hindu sun god.

The meeting, called "the trainers' training camp," was

the first in a series of nationwide conclaves Mr. Rao proposes to hold by December.

Elections are due in June but Mr. Rao says they may be brought forward by two or three months to avoid the searing summer heat.

"Elections are not very far off. Are we ready for them?" he asked.

The ruling party's stress on economic reforms was a major contrast to the main opposition Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which last week announced a campaign targeting the government's "soft" policy on Kashmir and its "alleged appeasement of Indian Muslims."

India's third major contender for power next year is an alliance of leftists and low-caste Hindu groups who have warned him against excessive reliance on reforms, urging him instead to frame more populist policies to woo voters.

Mr. Rao said the reforms were intended to alleviate poverty.

"This vital message is getting lost, partly by our own inadequacies and partly by a misleading opposition campaign."

"By inviting private investments in money-buzzing sectors like power and oil production we are going to be able to save vast amounts of money to divert them into housing and other social sectors," he said.

"Of the 900 million people, 60 to 70 million are at the top of the economic pyramid. But there are between 200 to 300 million burgeoning middle classes who have understood the reforms. Today they have a definite stake in the reforms."

"What is fiscal balance? What do we mean when we say our rate of savings has stagnated? Why do we use difficult words?" he went on.

Many of Mr. Rao's critics within the Congress have warned him against excessive reliance on reforms, urging him instead to frame more populist policies to woo voters.

"Your task is to convince the crucial 600 to 550 million at the bottom of the ladder that our policies aim to improve their living conditions," Mr. Rao told the meeting.

U.S. lawmaker: Tobacco study targeted 3rd graders

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tobacco giant Philip Morris tracked Virginia third-graders as potential future customers and gave electric shocks to college students to see if the resulting anxiety would make them smoke more, a congressman said.

Research documents also show the world's largest tobacco company found hungry smokers crave nicotine more than food, and considered the chemical addictive a decade before the Surgeon General did, Rep. Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California, said.

Mr. Waxman, who uncovered the records during a congressional investigation, submitted the documents for publication Tuesday in the congressional record. He read aloud portions of the dozens of records on the House floor.

"These documents make it crystal clear that we need regulation of tobacco to protect our children from becoming addicted to a life-threatening drug," said Mr. Waxman, ranking Democrat

on the Health Subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee. "I hope they will dissuade members of this body (Congress) from any legislative effort to block that regulation."

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the White House are discussing ways to curb childhood smoking, including banning cigarette vending machines and advertising attractive to children. Tobacco-state lawmakers are mobilising to block such regulation, but did not immediately react to Mr. Waxman's statements.

Philip Morris officials refused to discuss Waxman's charges, saying they hadn't seen the documents. But Philip Morris has always said that it studied why people smoke, the company said in a statement. "Nicotine, which is an important component of the taste and flavour of cigarettes, is believed to be one of many reasons."

According to documents Mr. Waxman cited:

— Philip Morris scientists

began a study on hyperactive children as "prospective smokers" by tracking third-graders in Chesterfield County, Virginia, in 1974. The goal was to see if they later smoked as teenagers as a way to calm down without pre-medication.

Researchers wrote that they hoped ultimately to track 60,000 elementary school children, and in 1977 enlisted pediatricians who treated hyperactive children. Company scientists wrote that "it would be good to know that smoking is an advantage to at least one subgroup of the population," Mr. Waxman read.

The study ended in 1978 when school officials declared access to students' school and medical records violated their privacy, the company records said.

A series of studies titled "shock I-V" administered electric shocks to college students, beginning in 1969, to see if student smoking increased under stressful conditions. The study ended in 1972 because "fear of shock

is scaring away some of our more valuable subjects," researchers wrote.

In 1977, the company wrote that it had reached an agreement with a university hospital to inject nicotine into people to measure their reactions, particularly brain waves. It was unclear whether those studies actually took place.

In 1976, college students were given low-nicotine cigarettes to see whether they smoked differently, by inhaling more deeply and holding the smoke longer, to compensate for the lack of nicotine.

Philip Morris chief William Campbell testified before Congress last year that tobacco is not addictive.

But Mr. Waxman said the documents prove the company knew that nicotine is addictive a decade before the Surgeon General made that declaration. He read a 1969 company report for Philip Morris' board of directors that concluded smokers need the "pharmacological effect" of tobacco.

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— Philip Morris scientists

Chechenya peace talks suspended

Russian soldier killed in fierce central Grozny fighting

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — Fierce fighting broke out in the centre of the Chechen capital Tuesday, minutes after the suspension of peace talks, leaving at least one Russian soldier dead.

Gunmen posted in at least three places opened up automatic weapons fire against a Russian position near the presidential palace, triggering a barrage of Russian automatic and artillery fire.

Earlier in the day, Russian and Chechen negotiators suspended peace talks for three days to hold separate consultations, but the top Russian delegate said a military accord was due to be signed at the weekend.

Khozhakhmed Yerikhonov, deputy head of the Chechen separatist delegation, said the break was agreed because the Chechens were given a final version of the military accord drawn up by the Russians and "there are some questions which were not previously addressed."

ITAR-TASS had reported that two Russian soldiers also were killed in overnight attacks by Chechen separatists in Grozny.

The talks will resume Saturday after the sides consult with their respective leaders, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Russian delegation chief Yevgeny Mikhailov said Russian and Chechen experts will continue working on draft documents during the break.

"The talks will continue.

There is a certainty that we will make real progress and achieve the final agreement," Mr. Mikhailov told ITAR-TASS before departing for Moscow.

President Boris Yeltsin,

meanwhile, discussed the talks during Tuesday's meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The two met at a health complex near Moscow where Mr. Yeltsin is recuperating from what aides said was heart trouble.

Sergei Filatov, Mr. Yeltsin's chief of staff, told the Interfax News Agency that the halt in the negotiations was not expected to lead to an upgrade in fighting.

After initial progress at negotiations on military and other issues, the sides stalled for weeks over the question of Chechenya's future political status.

The Chechen separatists, who declared independence in 1991, want that independence recognised by Moscow. The Kremlin insists the republic remain part of Russia, but is reportedly willing to allow Chechenya to call itself independent and suggests the question wait until after elections in the fall.

Mr. Mikhailov insisted Monday that the debate was not over Chechenya's overall status but the details of its role within Russia.

In the Hague, a foreign advisor to the Chechens said Tuesday Mr. Dudayev remains hopeful about peace talks with Russia, but will carry on his fight in Russia

President Boris Yeltsin,

needed to secure independence.

International lawyer Michael Van Walt, who heads the Hague-based United Nations and People Organisation (UNPO), met Mr. Dudayev in his Chechen mountain hide-out last week.

He quoted Mr. Dudayev as saying that the Chechens are prepared to fight — this time in Russia — if peace talks fail.

"What he said is that if there is going to be more fighting, which he doesn't want, then he doesn't want more destruction in Chechenya and it's going to have to be on Russian soil.

"That means, I suppose, guerrilla attack tactics in cities or in Russian centres and installations," Mr. Van Walt told Reuters in an interview.

On June, a breakaway Chechen group attacked Budennovsk in southern Russia seizing hundreds of hostages. The captives were released after five days when Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin brokered a deal with the rebels. Mr. Dudayev then condemned the assault, in which 121 people were killed.

"(Dudayev) is saying: 'Look our position is fairly tough. We are prepared to fight,'" Mr. Van Walt said.

Pakistan floods claim 50 more lives

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Some 50 people were reported dead Tuesday as monsoon floods continued to ravage many parts of Pakistan, officials and rescue workers said.

Reports said 46 people were killed in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) as mud-and-stone houses collapsed under torrential rains and gushing hill torrents lashed remote villages.

Mingora city in the north was flooded by the swollen Swat River, destroying or

damaging hundreds of houses and shops, local officials said, adding that a main bridge in the area had also collapsed.

Four deaths in a house collapse were also reported from Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

In southern Sindh province, 20 bodies were recovered from the flood waters Tuesday, following widespread devastation at the weekend when about 300 people were feared dead as hundreds of villages were washed away.

cattle have perished in the province.

Helicopters continued flying food supplies to tens of thousands marooned in Sindh's flood-hit areas. More troops have been deployed and army boats are operating round the clock to save the trapped people.

Army was also called out in nearby Rawalpindi after the River Ravi spilled over its banks Monday, flooding several residential areas in the city, witnessed said.

Gonzalez mulls resignation as Spanish leader

MADRID (AFP) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has announced he may not stand for the top job at the next elections, expected in early 1996.

Mr. Gonzalez, who has led Spain since 1982, told union leaders: "From time to time it is necessary to change the electoral lists."

He had already raised the question of his successor within the Socialist Party (PSOE) at the beginning of July.

And over the last few weeks he has told his closest colleagues he would not run again, according to the generally well informed daily newspaper El País.

Mr. Gonzalez's meeting with union leaders came amid growing political tensions after a string of scandals.

Reaction from party col-

leagues was mixed Tuesday. Txiki Benegas, one of the PSOE's senior figures, declared: "Felipe is our best man, and should stand."

But former Foreign Minister Fernando Moran said: "After the latest events, he can no longer stand."

Joaquin Leguina, former Madrid leader, said: "I am sure that personally, he does not much want to stay in power."

Party secretary Cipriano Ciscar confirmed that the PSOE would decide on a successor — or not, as the case may be — in September, at an extraordinary meeting of the special committee. The main aim would be to avoid a split at the heart of the party.

And over the last few weeks he has told his closest colleagues he would not run again, according to the generally well informed daily newspaper El País.

The party's parliamentary spokesman Joaquin Almudea: "It is not sure that we

will have the same candidate," at the next elections.

He cited two leading candidates to succeed the four-time general election winner (1982, 1986, 1989 and 1993): Foreign Minister Javier Solana, the only minister to have been in all Socialist cabinets since 1982, and Industry Minister Jose Borrell.

Political analysts said Mr. Solana, the premier's most loyal ally, would leave Mr. Gonzalez with the real power — in the form of the post of general party secretary. Mr. Borrell however, is seen as more independent.

The debate has taken on a new dimension since allegations Thursday from former Basque Socialist leader Ricardo Damborena. He accused Mr. Gonzalez of creating GAL death squads. Set

up to combat militant Basque separatists, its members stand accused of at least 24 murders.

His allegations came as a political bombshell in Spain and provoked a fierce denial from the prime minister before the Spanish parliament.

At the end of June, Mr. Gonzalez had to drop his deputy prime minister, Narciso Serra, and his defence minister, Julian Garcia Vargas, both of whom were implicated in an illegal phone-tapping scandal.

And since mid-July he has no longer been able to count on the unconditional support of the Catalan Party, Convergencia i Unio. The CiU distanced itself from the Socialists "so as not to go down with the ship," as one Catalan leader put it.

Quoting "reliable Cambodian sources," the paper said it had also uncovered a series of bungled efforts, caused in part by the mistrust between Cambodian police and military.

The Age reported the Australian government continued to arrange for medical, food and other supplies to be sent to the Cambodian villages and paid undisclosed "expenses" to the investigating Cambodian police squad in the weeks following May 27.

Mr. Evans said Tuesday that "if it is the case that authorities had definitive and decisive evidence which they were concealing from us and the Australian government I would...be absolutely appalled because it would demonstrate an awful insensitivity, quite apart from anything else, to the feelings of the parents who were so distressed at the time."

"But I repeat I make no such judgement at this stage because it is at odds with the information that we've been working on so far," Mr. Evans said.

If the Cambodian

Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995.

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Effort for common good

IN HIS APPRAISAL of the one year that passed since the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25, 1994, the Foreign Minister, Abdul Karim Kabariti noted that while the government of Jordan was committed to the peace treaty with Israel and all the agreements that resulted from it, all parties to the peace process should appreciate that "decades of belligerence" require a long time to be erased.

This is how the joint mission for the relief of Bosnia yesterday, led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Minister of the Environment Yossi Sarid, should be seen: A step in the direction of changing perceptions, of creating an atmosphere of cooperation to replace decades of confrontation.

Jews and Muslims have lived for centuries in harmony and peace in the Middle East, North Africa, Spain, Turkey and Bosnia itself. They only clashed over Palestine that both Palestinian Arabs and Jews claim to be their homeland. Now Arabs and Israelis, especially Palestinians and Israelis, are edging towards a historical reconciliation by which the two seem to agree that the best solution is to share the land sacred to both. "We must admit that Israelis and Jews all over the world have shown interest in the fate of Bosnian Muslims since the start of the conflict three years ago. Like Jordan, Israel received refugees and wounded people from Bosnia. And like Jordan the Israelis have been sending medical and relief supplies to the beleaguered country. Yesterday's joint mission was both a humanitarian effort to aid the Bosnians and a show of solidarity for a common cause: Human dignity everywhere.

The joint effort comes one day after a suicide bomber attacked a bus in Tel Aviv and killed six Israelis and injured 33. That attack was condemned by both the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships in the strongest possible terms. His Majesty King Hussein lashed at those who lure young people into committing such atrocious acts and stressed that Islam did not condone such acts. The day before, the King in a call to Jordan Television during a campaign to raise funds for Bosnia, described the situation there as "disastrous." The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin called to congratulate and commend Jordanians for the effort. These joint stands can only strengthen peace and change negative images and perceptions. What is needed are gestures of goodwill by the Israelis towards the Syrians, the Lebanese, and the Palestinians and a continuation of the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation with the Jordanians.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE BUS explosion near Tel Aviv Monday, which coincided with a critical stage in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations over the second phase of the Oslo agreement, could be used as a pretext by the Israelis to delay their talks with the Palestine National Authority (PNA), said Taber Al Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour. It is as if the Israeli government is awaiting such pretexts to delay for as long as possible the implementation of the agreement because it is not keen on making peace with the Arabs by giving their land back to them, said the writer. Indeed, the Israeli leaders, who have ensured the security of the Jewish state militarily thanks to continuous American aid, are expecting from the PNA to guarantee the safety and the security of each and every Israeli citizen at a time when it continues to occupy Arab lands, continued the writer.

THANKING THE United States for writing off Jordan's official debts to Washington, a writer in Al Ra'i said that such move reflects the good ties between the two countries. But it must be noted that the accumulating debts on Jordan resulted from the Kingdom's shouldering of heavy economic, political and strategic burdens over the past four decades of confrontation with the Jewish state, which continues to enjoy Washington's generosity and receives all kinds of aid, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer said that while the United States has aimed at helping Jordan to pursue the process of making peace with the Jewish state, it ought to be reminded that the Kingdom is still burdened with the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees who await their return to their homeland but are not able to do so due to Israel's adamant position in this regard.

M. KAHLÉ



Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

U.S. public supports action in Bosnia

THE AMERICAN public favours strong action to defend Bosnian Muslims from Serbian aggression, but requires political leadership to better define available policy options. These were some of the findings of a poll released on July 21 by the American Task Force for Bosnia (ATFB).

The poll, conducted by the John Zogby Group of New York, interviewed 900 registered voters across the United States, and had a margin of error of 3.3 per cent.

Almost two thirds of the respondents (65.1 per cent) indicated that they are closely following events in Bosnia, and by a 11-to-one margin their sympathies are with the Bosnian Muslims over the Serbs.

In fact, there is deep concern over the fate of the beleaguered Bosnian Muslim community. Almost 60 per cent identified the Serbian practice of "ethnic cleansing" as "similar to the treatment of Jews by the Nazis during World War II" — and more than 78 per cent of those who took that position said that they "believe that the U.S. government has a responsibility to stop another Holocaust" in Bosnia.

In light of these attitudes, it is not surprising that, by a 2 to 1 margin (52 per cent to 26 per cent), the voters polled feel that the U.S. should "play a more active role in insuring that U.N. safe areas are really safe for Bosnian civilians. At the same time 52.3 per cent support the use of force to protect these safe areas, and only 24 per cent oppose that idea.

Other results from the ATFB poll are less clear. While a slight majority do not support U.S. air strikes against the Serbs (33.2 per cent to 35.3 per cent), a majority do support U.S. congressional efforts to lift the arms embargo in place against the Bosnian government (37 per cent to 24 per cent). In both instances, those who have no opinion or are undecided from the largest bloc of those polled.

What emerges from the ATFB-Zogby Group poll is that U.S. public opinion has been deeply affected by dirty media coverage of Serbian atrocities. Amer-

If anything this failure to push an option and to pro-

vide leadership and build support for a decisive response to the Bosnian crisis has been the main criticism of the Clinton administration's approach to Bosnia.

Noting this, former Carter State Department spokesperson Hodding Carter said, "The problem is inconsistency. This is a situation where the public is up for grabs but it requires you to sustain a steady conversation about foreign policy, even though you may be taking considerable heat. But Clinton gets spooked by events or by polls results, and pulls the plug on his own policy."

Echoing this view, Democratic Congressman Lee Hamilton (former Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee), said: "The president should have come to us and said what are we committed to do and how we intend to do it. He should do more to prepare Congress and the American people."

Now that the tables have turned and President Clinton is under attack by Senator Robert Dole (R-KS) who is also the frontrunning Republican presidential contender, the same pattern is emerging again.

In the face of public outrage over repeated Serbian outrages, Mr. Dole is proposing much the same policy once proposed by candidate Clinton. With some bi-partisan support in both the Senate and House, including candidate Clinton's earliest major support — Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT). Mr. Dole is proposing a unilateral U.S. lifting of the arms embargo that many feel has crippled the Bosnian government's ability to defend its constituents.

But as Mr. Dole was preparing for a congressional vote on the question last week, the administration convinced him to temporarily stay his hand. Mr. Dole's decision to delay action was prompted by a fear that if he succeeded in lifting the embargo, and if that were followed by a pull-out of U.N. peacekeepers and the conflict spread more broadly throughout the Balkans Mr. Dole might be faulted for creating that disaster.

White House Chief-of-

Staff Leon Panetta said as much. He said: "If we simply get out and arm them, what happens here is that the United States will have almost direct responsibility to assist the Bosnians or let them simply destroy themselves in this process. That's unacceptable."

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White House spokesman Mike McCurry added: "We'll also be saying to the United States Senate that this is an awful time to further inflame this conflict by unilaterally lifting the arms embargo. Lifting the arms embargo is purely and simply a way to drive the United Nations out of Bosnia, which would be devastating for all the refugees that we've seen there in recent days. It would also drive the United States in. We would probably have to have a substantial ground component to live up to the moral responsibility for what takes place there."

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And painting an even more dire scenario, Democratic Congressman Lee Hamilton stated: "If we start supplying the Serbs, almost certainly ... You're going to have a wide war, we're going to be on the ground, the British and French are out, and you're going to have enormous consequences flow from this decision to lift the arms embargo."

And so the pattern of talking tough and doing little continues, and in its wake the American public is deeply troubled by the suffering of the Bosnians, angered by the brutality of the Serbs, but lacking a clear understanding of which response would best address the crisis and lead

to its eventual solution. This may change in the weeks to come. If President Clinton is able to convince the allies to strike hard at Serbian positions, or if Senator Dole decides to move his initiative to a vote, the pattern may be broken.

But the doomsayers are partially right on one point. There will be consequences from such actions, and the American public will have to be prepared not only for those consequences but also for the necessary responses. It will require a sustained educational campaign and decisive leadership. But as the ATFB-Zogby group poll shows, the public can be won over to support such action.

In fact the ATFB, which has been working to strengthen U.S. policy on Bosnia for more than three years, is a microcosm of the nation at large. Directed by Khalid Saffouri, the ATFB is an umbrella organisation for a large number of groups which are committed to changing U.S. policy to protect the Bosnian people from Serb aggression, and include Arab, American, Jewish, Muslim, Christian and secular non-denominational human rights organisations. The Task Force meetings are an impressive example of how even organisations which have worked at cross-purposes in the past are able to band together to prevent what they all see as a tragic abandonment of moral responsibility on the part of the West. For while the ATFB is active primarily in the United States, Mr. Saffouri and other leaders periodically attend conferences of leaders of similar organisations in Europe to discuss the possibility of a unified strategy on certain points.

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It occurred to me
By Ali Kassay

Three cheers for JTV

I tend, as a rule, to have a Marxist view of television (Groucho Marx, not the other one) that it is an important educational instrument — when I see what programmes are on, I switch it off and read a book. This, added to the cynicism that life in the Third World cultivates in man, led me to be sceptical about the telethon organised by Jordan Television for the aid of war victims in Bosnia. Last Friday, however, I stood corrected, and happy to be so.

Firstly, praise goes to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Not only did they inspire the idea, they also gave another fine example of leading from the front. As for the people of Jordan, their generosity has never been in question. Still, the money raised, considerable in absolute terms, was phenomenal in that it exceeded one dinar per capita. This was very magnanimous, coming as it did from a society in which the number of families that live below the poverty line rises steadily with no foreseeable prospect of it coming down again.

More striking, however, was the success of the undertaking as an organisational effort. The norm in our society is to do nothing and complain that others are not doing enough. Hence, for an organisation that is not directly involved in charity to succeed in mobilising our society into a constructive communal effort was an achievement worthy of the highest praise.

The telethon was also just as significant in what it revealed, as in the fact that it happened. For one thing, it was very refreshing to see donations coming from other countries, notably from Israel. It is a major step forward that we and our neighbours to the west have progressed from the point where we needed international missions of good will to separate us from each other's throat, to a state of affairs where we as people can act together in an effort to alleviate the suffering of a third party, living in a different continent. One should commend Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for highlighting this through his initiative.

The most significant revelation, however, was that transnationalism has reached the Middle East. Until recently, the rule all over the world was that society took care of itself within the nation state, and international relations were strictly the prerogative of governments. The media revolution has added a new element to the formula that may have changed it irreversibly. The telethon was a clear manifestation that good work undertaken on the popular level can produce good results across political borders, even without direct government intervention.

The idea here is not to preach the marginalisation of governments, but to draw the conclusion that people need not sit idly, waiting for their government to do everything. The prospects for good work that this opens up are infinite. One suggestion that may contribute to the success of any future campaign is to contact major corporations and agencies that have vested interests in this country, or the pressure groups that

influence the economic sectors in which they operate, and seek their contribution to the effort. All that would be required is the will and a bit of organisation. Three cheers for Jordan Television for showing that this can be done.

ACROSS THE map of a headquarters the chin is charting what "confrontation" and turn to kilometres, curve local war, contributing the equation that who is winning. Maps like daily production by the agencies thousands of so many firms many tents refugees — a war for both physical and civil. Complicated war is at this more complex other dimensions Spain, the Arab-Israeli African conflict quired a measured combat world which avoided a war for both physical and civil nerves, of setting on fire can be towns beleaguered, maimed, infantry forces, as men, again but perhaps Muslim Serbs, which, in spite of this, is doing better.

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Meanwhile General condemned violence" lives of five near Tel Aviv. Mr. Ghazi said he was and Palestine confinue. He said th

Would China really attack? Taiwan wonders

By James Kyne

Reuter

TAIPEI — Taiwan's 64 million dollar question — Would China ever really attack? — is again the subject of impassioned debate.

The son of this island's late leader Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek thinks it is a definite possibility, but others see the Chinese use of military force as extremely unlikely.

The debate intensified on Sunday as Taiwan said China has begun missile tests in the sea just 85 miles north of this island, an act of sabre-rattling which has caused panic on Taiwan's stock market.

"I do not agree with people in Taiwan who say that

China would not attack Taiwan," Chiang Wei-ge, the son of Chiang Kai-Shek and himself a retired general, told Reuters.

To say China would not attack is a kind of guess or hope. It is wishful thinking, said Mr. Chiang, 79, who is a senior advisor to President Lee Teng-Hui and president of Taiwan's Society for Strategic Studies.

There are others who say that China does not dare to attack. "Mr. Chiang said, 'This is like saying 'come on, come on fight.' It is the kind of thing that children say in the playground."

Chiang Kai-Shek fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war in China to Mao Tse-Tung's communists.

forces. For the rest of his life, the austere generalissimo vowed to recover the mainland but never realised his aim.

In 1991, President Lee officially abolished a plan to retake China and has since pressed Beijing on numerous occasions to also drop its threat of force against Taiwan.

But China has not reciprocated. Only last week Beijing made clear that it would use force if Taiwan declared a formal independence from China or if it was invaded by a foreign power.

Although it functions as an independent country, both Taipei and Beijing agree that Taiwan is a part of China which will one day

attack. They have too much to lose. An invasion would destroy business confidence in southern China overnight," said Lee Wen-Lin, a businessman.

Some who braved torrential rain to take part in a protest rally against the missile tests in Taipei on Sunday were defiant.

"We're hoping that they won't invade, but if they do, let's fight. We're ready," said one housewife.

Taiwan's military, although not as large or well-equipped as its rival, is still a force capable of mobilising considerable firepower and men in a country where military service is compulsory. Its influence the economic sectors in which they operate, and seek their contribution to the effort. All that would be required is the will and a bit of organisation. Three cheers for Jordan Television for showing that this can be done.

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fire can be adjusted on
towns below. It pits the
motivated and numerous
infantry of the Bosnian
forces, as many as 200,000 men,
against the smaller but better armed forces,
perhaps 80,000, of the Bosnian Serbs.

This is a war in which,

in spite of Srebrenica

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ACROSS THE situation map of a United Nations headquarters in Sarajevo, the chinagraph marks charting what they call the "confrontation line" twist and turn for hundreds of kilometres, each loop and curve enclosing its own little local war, each little war contributing to the complex equation that may tell us who is winning and who is losing.

Maps like this, and the daily production of statistics by the U.N. and its agencies — so many thousands of detonations, so many metres advanced, so many tents or blankets or refugees — reduce the Bosnian war to measurable processes of military activity and civilian displacement. Complicated as the war is at this level, it is even more complicated in its other dimensions. Like Spain, like Vietnam, like the Arab-Israeli and South African conflicts, it has acquired a meaning both for the combatants and for the world which cannot be avoided or sidestepped. It is a war for the high ground both physically and morally, it is a war of culture, of nerves, of wits, a war centring on one extraordinary city, a war against the world and a war finally whose outcome will help set the tone, for good or ill, of international politics in the next century.

This is a war against people, not only in the obvious sense of ethnic cleansing when ground has been taken. There is also a continuous Serbian attack on the day-to-day life of Sarajevo and other government towns. The war is a competition by the government and by individuals, to maintain the appearance of normality to clean up after the shells fall, to keep going to the office, to shave every day, and so on through the whole spectrum of life. Bosnians have made amazing efforts, but there is no denying that the Serbs could in time kill

course, leave, with guilt in their hearts, and they include many of the best educated, and many in the young. This draining away of the elite and of youth eats away at morale, and leads some to fear that the Serbs could in time kill

Sarajevo as a functioning community without actually taking.

Each day, in every way, the Serbs strive to break the euphoria of normality, to disrupt the vital routines that keep towns and cities, especially Sarajevo, going.

It is well-known that they target radio and television stations, newspaper offices, even art exhibitions or rock concerts, to the extent now that public cultural events have almost ceased. But Bosnians have reshaped their cultural life, News-

papers and broadcasters operate from several dispersed offices or go down into bunkers. The government, meanwhile, places huge emphasis on maintaining the education system, important in itself, but also as a demonstration of

diminishing advantage against which the Serbian attacks on the two enclaves must be seen. These were relatively easy victories that were available, and the Serbian commander, Ratko Mladic, has snatched them up. The Bosnian Serbs may also feel that the seizure of the enclaves brings them a step closer to the settlement they want, including a broadening of the vulnerable corridor between Serb-held territories in eastern and western Bosnia, and a division of Sarajevo. The same reasoning may lie behind the offensive into the north-western Bihać pocket, designed to provoke, perhaps, a premature Croatian offensive and also to wrong-foot the U.N. and NATO, who have a history of concentrating on the last crisis, while the next one is

emerging.

But there is a more difficult area of calculation than that represented by the military balance on the ground. The Bosnian Serbs ultimately depend on terrorising their opponents, both the people of Bosnian government-held territory, and the international community. Mr. Mladic is a master of terror and threat, making up with that awful skill for the very real disabilities from which the Bosnian Serb army and government now suffer.

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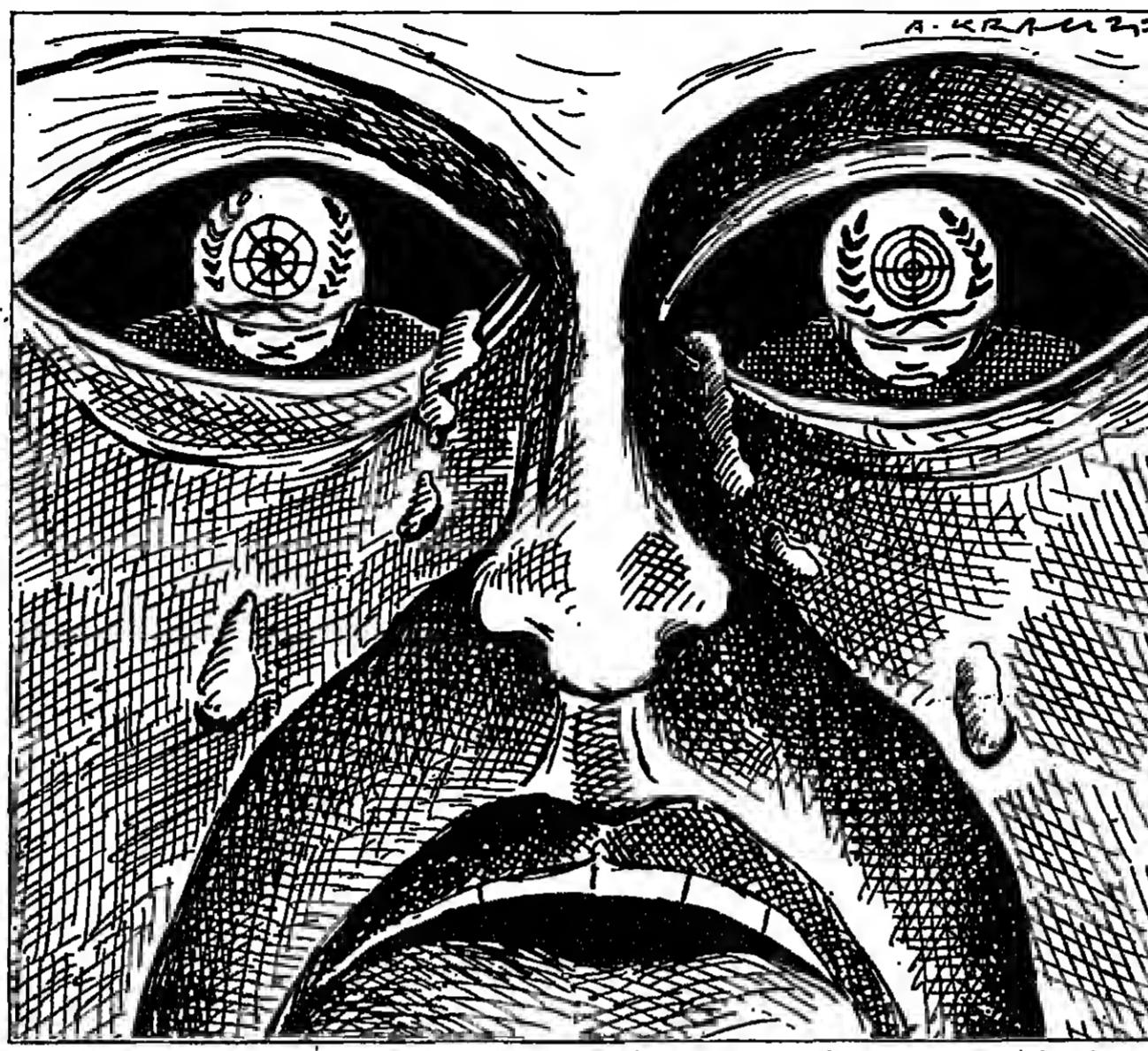
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The London conference on the war in Bosnia has produced another burst of vague formulas by the U.N. and NATO for



the defence of Gorazde, Zepa and Bihać, Martin Wollacott, in Sarajevo, insists that the West must not fail again

will. So school children get new textbooks, and physics and students at the university strive to do experiments with electricity from car batteries. To give an idea of the limited basis on which all this is done, textbook writers were each sent to help them in their task, a package containing one quire of typing paper, one typewriter ribbon, and 12 candles. That is luxury for an author in Bosnia today.

The war between willed normality and the panic the Serbs want to induce carries on in many fields, including the fields of Sarajevo itself. Every hit of grime grows cabbages. The window boxes of Sarajevo, with their similar, miniature, crops, shout defiance. "Until this war, I had never realised," one university teacher said, "what a beautiful and civilised object is a sliced tomato arranged on a clean white plate."

The outside world has long joined in this struggle for normality, with visits by artists and theatre producers, with extensive support for the Bosnian media, and with other projects, like the fascinating attempt to get Sarajevo fully plugged into the Internet, to lift its siege at least in cyberspace.

This international engagement, going beyond governments, makes it all the more galling that the Serbian strategy of error has worked so well on the United Nations forces. A tiny state and its little army inflicts almost daily humiliations on the soldiers of nations who could flatten Palestine, or for that matter the ministry of defence on Belgrade, in an afternoon.

This success is very much part of the way in which the Bosnian Serbs maintain, in spite of their dwindling military assets, the initiative of terror in Bosnia. When they threaten the U.N., they threaten the

Bosnians and when they brutalise the Bosnians, they scare the U.N. They strike repeatedly at the hope, still there in Bosnian minds, that the world will finally act against the Serbs, and add to the worries of Bosnian decision-makers. These men ask what guarantee they have that the Serbs will not now aim not only for Gorazde, but Tuzla or Sarajevo. They believe they could beat them off in the latter two cases, but who can be absolutely certain, given that the Serbs still have a very big edge in heavy equipment? They search for that moment in the war when they can tip the balance of morale against the Bosnian Serbs, and the sight of Mr. Mladic running rings around the U.N. forces, scaring them into inactivity, does not make that easier.

The London conference has come up with a vague formula for action over Gorazde and the supply route into Sarajevo that indicates some readiness by the Western powers to move more forcefully in Bosnia, but leaves many questions hanging in the air. Two dangers are apparent. One is that, as so often before, the U.N. and NATO will fail to deliver. The other is that the Bosnian Serbs will postpone action on Gorazde and will make their next moves elsewhere. The U.N. and NATO should not be legally tied to the defence of one or two places, but should have the flexibility to respond to any manoeuvres by the Bosnian Serbs.

The West stands at a point where it could lose its unity, its reputation, and its self-respect. If this, profitably lost, opportunity is mismanaged, the fate of Bosnia could be grim one. That of the rest of us will also be unenviable.

The Guardian

Jordan, Israel launch

(Continued from page 1)

natural disasters.

In reply to a question about Jordan's relentless efforts to create regional and international cooperation to serve nations in need of help, said the Prince at the press conference, which he held jointly with Yossi Sarid, the Israeli Minister of Environment who flew on board the Israeli relief plane.

Israel and Jordan, are together carrying out a humanitarian mission, thus setting a good example of cooperation for others to copy free of any political, sectarian or ethnic consideration, said the Prince at the press conference, which was attended by the foreign ministers of Bosnia and Croatia.

Jordan said Prince Has-san, has for the past 10 years been calling for a new international humanitarian order transcending regional, and sectoral considerations.

He said that the Jordanian mission was a continuation to Jordan's efforts started in 1992 to extend relief aid to the victims of aggression and

sectarianism.

The Middle East recently, the role of the world's nations state

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Serbs conquer

(Continued from page 1)

Tuesday after the U.N. signalled he must retain ultimate authority for all airstrikes, presenting NATO with the dilemma of putting forward proposals which would automatically be rejected.

"There is no point in agreeing to a text which the U.N. immediately disowns. That will simply cost us more credibility than not agreeing anything would," one diplo-

mator commented.

The compromise put forward by NATO falls significantly short of what Washington has demanded and casts doubts on whether the Western powers will be able to deliver the "major air cam-

paign" U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry promised on Monday.

The United States had argued that once the United Nations had called for airstrikes, the alliance should have autonomy of action to bomb as many targets as they consider necessary to repel the Serbs.

Britain and France, concerned about the safety of thousands of their peacekeepers in the event of Serb retaliation for airstrikes, insisted the United Nations should also retain the right to call off attacks.

Even if it wins agreement for the limited modifications of the dual key system, a major show of force against the Serbs remains dependent on political approval from the United Nations in New York.

Given Russia's strong opposition to military action against the Serbs and the United Nations' own reluctance in the past to order airstrikes, even when the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia was being brutally overrun earlier this month, this appears extremely unlikely.

In Washington, the Clinton administration faced a severe challenge to its policy on Bosnia in the Senate. A bill to unilaterally lift the U.N. arms embargo against Bosnia was scheduled to be taken up there Tuesday.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said President Clinton may do some last-minute lobbying by telephone to try to defeat the bill co-sponsored by Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas and Sen. Joseph Lieberman, a Democrat from Connecticut.

Japan also condemned the bombing, calling it a "cowardly terrorist act aimed at destroying the peace process."

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali condemned the "vicious act of violence" that claimed the lives of five Israelis on a bus near Tel Aviv.

Mr. Ghali nevertheless said he was "encouraged by the determination of Israeli and Palestinian leaders to continue the peace process."

He said the United Nations

NEWS IN BRIEF

Economy

Gulf official predicts common market by 2000

MUSCAT (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are expected to create a common market before the end of this decade after edging closer to a customs union, a senior Gulf official said in an interview published Monday.

The six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which seek to merge their oil-reliant economies under a 1982 pact, have made progress in unifying their tariffs on foreign imports and a customs union is now in sight, GCC secretary general Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi told the *Omani, Magazine Al Haras*.

"I am optimistic a unified customs tariff will see light before the end of this year and the common market before the end of this century," he said.

Gulf officials have said they have finished the classification of most foreign products which would be either taxed or exempted. More

than 1,100 products would be listed under such a classification.

GCC finance and economy ministers are due to approve the list before they present it in its final form to their heads of state at their annual summit in Muscat in December. Launching of the customs union is subject to endorsement by the GCC leaders.

A customs union was supposed to be set up five years after the 1982 agreement but it was held up by differences among members on the size of the standard tariff. Some members have insisted on high tariffs while others with low duties want it to be moderate in line with their free market policies.

Gulf officials have reported progress following several rounds of negotiations, with a compromise on a tariff of between eight and 10 per cent. The proposals also include

the creation of a fund to collect tax revenues and distribute them proportionately among members.

The 1982 accord also calls for free movement of trade and individuals, alignment of currencies and linking the stock markets of the six members — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

A GCC common market, which would be the first in the Middle East, would have a gross domestic product of more than \$200 billion. It would also be the largest oil bloc and one of the biggest consumer markets in the world, with imports of more than \$90 billion a year.

"The GCC's efforts are now concentrating on the implementation of all articles of the economic pact to establish the common market in the coming stage," Sheikh Fahim said.

Industrialists have complained that the high interest rates have propped up the Israeli shekel, undercutting exports. The shekel, at 2.94 to the U.S. dollar, is now at its 1993 level.

Israel's bank lowers interest rate

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Bank of Israel lowered interest rates 0.3 per cent Monday, bringing its lending rate to commercial banks to an annual 13.2 per cent.

The central bank has been steadily lowering interests in recent months after its tight-money policies succeeded in slowing inflation.

Prices rose only some three per cent in the first half of 1994 and annual inflation is expected to be between 6-8 per cent. Inflation in 1993 was 14.5 per cent.

Industrialists have complained that the high interest rates have propped up the Israeli shekel, undercutting exports.

The shekel, at 2.94 to the U.S. dollar, is now at its 1993 level.

UAE insurers wary of new capital requirements

DUBAI (R) — Insurers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) doubt that a new rule requiring them to raise their capital is the answer to weeding out the congested insurance sector.

The economy ministry decided this month to give firms six years to reach a minimum capital of 50 million dirhams (\$13.6 million), up from 10 million dirhams (\$2.73 million).

Ministry officials said the new regulations aimed at forming strong insurance units and ridding the market of small operations with risk potentials.

But the government's move has met with scepticism.

"The ministry's directive will burden local companies with unneeded additional capital, which will remain idle or otherwise find its way to bank coffers, changing the nature of the insurance op-

eration," said one insurance analyst.

The UAE's large foreign community — about 75 per cent of the two million population — has provided fertile ground for profitable insurance schemes like life insurance.

Other types include marine, property, health and cars — a particularly lucrative field in the UAE where the passion for four-wheel drive vehicles among nationals and foreigners is evident.

A drive to cut public spending by abolishing two decades of generous subsidies on medical care for expatriates has lured foreign insurers to enter what is still seen as a virgin market.

Some insurance executives do see room for regulation. "The sector needs new regulations to limit competition and stop influx of foreign firms," said one local executive.

BUT local insurers say that under present market conditions, the new regulations give foreign firms rich in capital and low on expenditure a clear advantage.

Moreover the new rules may not have the desired effect of thinning out a crowded field.

Said one analysts: "Insurance firms, high on accumulated reserves, will face no serious difficulties in boosting capital, nor will this discourage new entrants to the already congested market."

Economy ministry figures show more than 200 insurance companies and agencies operating in the UAE, comprising 19 local firms, 76 international companies and about 128 agencies that sell policies on behalf of big firms.

Of the 19 local companies, only three have capital at or above the new level. Others will have to raise by up to five times their current capitalisation levels.

Unless smaller firms merge, the new rule will mean adding \$39.4 million dirhams (\$14.7 million) to the current aggregate capital of \$20.6 million dirhams (\$14.26 million).

But insurance executives argue that a capital increase does not technically eliminate risk, as their activities are governed by UAE laws that prohibit the use of paid-up capital to cover losses without shareholders' approval.

Brokers said the move would also affect the share market.

They said insurance companies would increase their capital by using reserves to issue bonus shares or offer new issues.

"Either way it is going to have a negative effect on profitability," said one broker. "There will be a lot of angry shareholders."

For the 19 local companies, only three have capital at or above the new level. Others will have to raise by up to five times their current capitalisation levels.

Employees to about 5,000 dinars. But that remains to be easily enough to buy two chickens on the local market.

The monthly salary of about 150 dinars prior to the U.N. sanctions was enough to buy the basic needs of average Iraqis.

The rate of price increases still far exceeds salaries. According to U.N. estimates, prices of essential commodities surged between May 1990 and May 1995 by nearly 850 times.

Many people rely on the meager rations provided by the government. The rations meet about 50 per cent of a person's monthly needs of sugar, rice, flour and cooking oil.

A 1-kilogramme of chicken was sold at 2,100 dinars in Baghdad on Tuesday, up from 1,350 a week ago. Cooking oil surged to 1,500 a kilogramme, from 1,000. A tray of 30 eggs jumped to 2,400 from 2,000.

The local currency continued its decline against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday. The dinar traded at more than 1,750 to the dollar on the black market, up from 1,450 a week ago.

To supplement their salaries, many civil servants are driving taxis in Baghdad or have joined the army of petty traders in the capital.

On the pavements of the city's thoroughfares, vendors line up selling shoes, spare parts, electrical appliances and also some banned foreign goods like jeans, beverages and sweets. The authorities do not interfere.

Meanwhile, the number of beggars in streets, mosques and churches is on the rise. Iraq's economy, devastated by the U.N. sanctions, is in the grip of rampant inflation. The government, its oil exports blocked by the embargo and assets abroad frozen, has little means to interfere.

Baghdad turned down a U.N. offer earlier this year allowing it to sell limited amounts of oil to pay for urgent humanitarian needs, saying the conditions infringe on its sovereignty.

The country is also facing a scarcity of supplies which forced the government last October to slash food rations distributed at give-away prices by as much as half.

Baghdad traders said they feared the new raise would fuel inflation and cause further increases in prices.

EU says it is among most open economies to trade

GENEVA (R) — The European Union (EU) argued in a report published on Tuesday that it was among the most open to foreign trade of the major world economies and ahead of the other two top traders, the United States and Japan.

But diplomats said the assertion was disputed at a closed-door meeting of delegations to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) by EU trading partners, including the United States, Canada and Australia.

On the basis of the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) contributed by trade in goods and services, the EU with a relatively consistent 22-25 per cent over the past 15 years was more open than the United States and Japan.

The EU made the claim in an analysis provided to the WTO as part of the new global trade watchdog's programme of reviews of the trade policies of its members, currently 100.

Trade figures since the last review two years ago under

the old General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) "demonstrate that the EC (EU) has remained one of the most open of all major economies," the Brussels report declared.

However, trade diplomats said Brussels came under heavy fire during closed-door debate in the fledgling trade body, launched on January 1 to absorb the GATT by the end of this year, from a range of trading nations.

They said Central American countries bitterly criticised the EU over its banana import restrictions, maintained with some changes to protect imports from former European colonies despite GATT findings that they violate world trade rules.

The United States has hit out strongly this year at EU policies ranging from the grain trade through the banana issue to what it sees as Germany's refusal to open up its power-generating industry to tenders from U.S. firms.

Issue of the WTO report and the debate coincided with talks in Washington between EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan and top U.S. officials on the over-

all relationship between the two big traders.

There has been talk on both sides of the Atlantic recently of creation of a free trade area linking the EU with North America but the idea has been played down by senior officials in Washington and Brussels.

In its report, while avoiding direct criticism the WTO secretariat noted that the EU "remains one of the most frequent users of anti-dumping remedies" in the GATT/WTO system with 156 measures in force at the end of 1994.

In meat, dairy products and cereals, it said, tighter rules agreed under the 1994 world trade treaty on export subsidies and subsidised export volumes could gradually narrow the extent of disposal of surpluses and their effect on world markets.

It said the EU had made "significant headway" in liberalising the telecommunications equipment and services markets, but noted it had made no access commitments to other countries on audiovisual services.

Oman changes public work hours

(0330 GMT) to 1430 (1030 GMT).

"It is one part of our future directives to develop human resources and qualify Omanis to face coming challenges," OMA quoted Mr. Yousef as saying on Oman Television on Monday night. It "will enable more contacts with the outside world."

Oman, a small oil producer, is privatising its economy and trying to encourage foreign investment. It allows foreigners to trade to a limited extent on its official stock market.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This morning, fine for increasing your efficiency at career activities, but tonight steer clear of a partner who is not thinking straight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Getting into the details of any project at hand can make them profitable, but avoid a new venture this evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Eve while at business, think about home affairs so that you can improve them. Be very wise in handling practical affairs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a fine day to go shopping and get your errands run, but show gentility at home this evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate on financial affairs this morning, and improve them. Drive with care, especially on the highways.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study your reflection in the mirror and see how to make yourself more charming, but forget about money angles.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can get private affairs well handled during this day but don't become irate tonight about what you do little about.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) By doing small courtesies for friends and acquaintances today, you can gain their goodwill and devotion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) See how you can handle your tasks more efficiently, and this evening don't permit a friend who is upset to confuse you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You get a worthwhile idea this morning but then you should study every facet of it before putting it in operation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make sure you do your tasks well today, then make collections. Impress others with your ability to keep promises.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day to have much conversation with partners and know just where you stand where interests are concerned.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

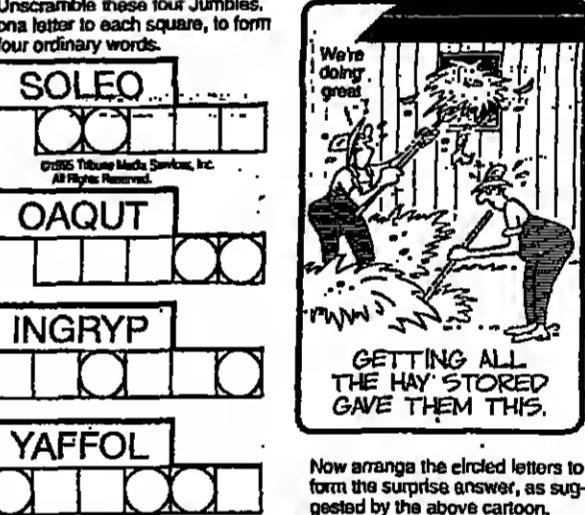
THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumble: ABASH TULL CHEERY POLICY
Answer: How they tackled the picking chore — WITH RELISH

(Answers tomorrow)

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995 9

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Tarawneh: 200,000 illegal workers in Jordan

About 200,000 foreign labourers work in Jordan illegally, Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour Saleh Tarawneh said. Mr. Tarawneh said foreign labourers who work legally in the Kingdom number only 42,000. He said Jordan would not resort to mass evictions of illegal workers, but would work on organising the labour market. He noted that only about 2,500 illegal foreign workers were ordered to leave the Kingdom in 1994. Institutions that employ foreign labourers illegally are usually given a deadline to replace these labourers with Jordanian job-seekers, Mr. Tarawneh said.

Disclosing that the ministry has sent to the Council of Ministers recommendations aimed at organising the labour market and reducing the number of foreign labourers, he said these recommendations, which would be put to implementation as soon as they are approved by the Cabinet, take into consideration the interests of the productive sectors, mainly the agricultural and services sectors, as well as the interests of Jordanian job-seekers. The ministry, he stressed, will ensure that none of the economic sectors will be affected by the ministry's measures. The secretary general said the new measures, which will be taken in a bid to reduce the foreign workforce, will exclude workers in the agricultural and services sectors, professors at Jordanian universities and nurses. The new measures, he continued, will aim to make Jordanian job-seekers replace foreigners working in the tourism sector, particularly hotels and first class restaurants. He asserted that Jordan was cooperating with Egypt to organise the flow of Egyptian labourers into the Kingdom. Dwelling on another topic, Mr. Tarawneh said Jordanian expatriate workers numbers 330,000, with 200,000 of them working in Arab countries. He said the number could easily increase in Arab countries which need Jordanian expertise in case restrictions facing Jordanians in these countries are removed (Al Aswaq).

** The technical committee of the Greater Amman Municipality has finalised studying offers presented by 34 foreign companies to establish a garbage recycling plant at the Ruseifa garbage disposal site, Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi said. Dr. Abbadi said the municipality's financial committee will discuss in the coming few days financial and technical offers presented by these companies, which include some from Japan, the U.S. and Europe. After opening the sealed bids, said the mayor, the municipality will start looking for financiers for the project and will then select one of the bidders. A preliminary technical study prepared by the municipality estimated that the project would cost JD 20 million (Al Ra'i).

World oil prices lifted by late buying surge

LONDON (R) — World oil prices staged a late surge on Monday inspired by strong buying of crude futures in the United States.

However, London traders were reluctant to predict a rapid turnaround from the \$4 a barrel slide over the past two months.

London September futures for Benchmark North Sea

Brent blend ended six cents higher at \$15.67 a barrel, having hit a new 10-month low early in the day at \$15.41.

Dealers had said weakness on U.S. gasoline markets continued to delay any price recovery. But, after a week of steady falls, U.S. gasoline futures regained \$1.30 a gallon on Monday.

Earlier, dealers had said

the short-term direction was difficult to divine, but believed the odds were growing against any further significant price slide.

"The market is telling us we should not sell the current levels but cover some short positions and see if the market can break upwards," one London-based broker said.

Surplus Iranian cargoes are

weighing on crude markets but key North Sea supply-demand fundamentals appear to have improved in the last day or so, said oil dealers.

"With all these barrels moving out of the region or into storage I would expect (North Sea price) differentials to continue to firm," a North Sea trader said.

Surplus Iranian cargoes are

Iran turns to oil tankers to beat U.S. sanctions

DUBAI (R) — Iran has chartered 28 giant oil tankers in an apparent bid to beat U.S. trade sanctions and maintain hard currency export earnings from oil sales.

The figure was given by Mohammad Souri, chairman of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), which is responsible for securing vessels to export crude produced by the state National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

Speaking to Reuters late on Monday, Mr. Souri did not say when the tankers were chartered, but western shipping brokers estimate that NITC has leased approximately 20 vessels from the spot and time-charter tanker market since the beginning of June.

Iran's increasing recourse to the international shipping

market followed White House trade sanctions that came into effect last month and halted an annual trade worth \$4 billion of Iranian oil bought by American oil companies.

The White House imposed sanctions because of Tehran's alleged sponsorship of terrorism and its desire to develop nuclear weapons, charges which Iran consistently denies.

Before the embargo, U.S. firms lifted about one quarter of Iran's crude exports of 2.5 million barrels per day (BPD) and used their own or leased tankers to transport crude from Iranian terminals.

With U.S. firms now banned from going to Iran, NIOC, through NITC, has had to sell more crude on its own behalf, which explains why NITC has stepped up its

tanker chartering activity, industry sources in the Gulf say.

"Due to NIOC's surplus supply of oil, NITC increased its activities accordingly," Souri said.

But Mr. Souri explained the surplus not in terms of U.S. sanctions. He said it was because repair and overhaul work at some of Iran's refineries had freed up oil for export.

He said other factors that were increasing Iran's exports included not weather in Iran that was reducing domestic oil consumption, much of it used for heating.

Oil traders say that fears that NIOC is selling more of its crude on its own account rather than finding long-term customers to

replace lost U.S. sales has led to pressure on oil prices.

NIOC marketing officials say these fears are misplaced and that exports have found markets in Europe and the Far East.

The 28 tankers chartered by NITC are very large crude carriers, which can each load around two million barrels of oil, and ultra large crude carriers, which can carry four million barrels, Mr. Souri said.

Bankers also believe NITC may be booking vessels simply to act as storage vessels, a sign that NIOC may have been encountering difficulties in finding outlets for its sales.

Mr. Souri said that NITC had no immediate or future plans for the use of storage tankers.

Saudi NIC chairman resigns

MANAMA (R) — The chairman of Saudi Arabia's National Industrialisation Company (NIC) announced on Tuesday his resignation from the firm, which is partly owned by Saudi billionaire Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal. A NIC statement did not give a reason for Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Ghaly's resignation from the NIC Board of Directors and as chairman, a post he had held since April 1994.

Last month, Prince Al Waleed and a group of Saudi investors bought a 50 percent stake in NIC, which has shown net profit declines in

the past two years. It said last week pre-tax profit in the first half of 1995 fell to 5.7 million riyals (\$1.5 million) compared to 6.3 million riyals (\$1.7 million) in the same period of 1994.

The prince, who is NIC's major shareholder, has a history of rescuing troubled companies, injecting cash and new management into them and turning losses into profits.

NIC, traded in the Saudi market, was established in 1983 to set up petrochemical, chemical, electrical and mechanical engineering projects in the kingdom.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 25/07/1995					
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	
ARAB BANK PIC	180	38570	214.500	213.500	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3280	14949	4.550	4.610	
BANK OF JORDAN	250	845	3.380	3.380	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	4315	5764	1.330	1.330	
THE HOUSING BANK	2550	20413	8.010	8.000	
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	452	1267	2.830	2.810	
JORDAN GULF BANK	6900	8217	1.210	1.180	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	5755	21495	3.740	3.750	
JOHN LEWIS BANK SAVING & INVESTMENT	100	420	0.400	0.400	
ARAB EMBAL SAVING/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	3000	11167	3.670	3.720	
ARMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	37080	40561	1.100	1.090	
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	850	4505	5.300	5.300	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	9750	16455	1.690	1.680	
MARKETS SECTOR					
	75362	188537	INDEX NUMBER: 177.59	CHANGE: -0.33%	
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	2340	6358	2.720	2.730	
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	300	795	2.650	2.650	
THE NATIONAL RELIA INSURANCE	200	600	3.000	3.000	
INSURANCE SECTOR					
	2840	7753	INDEX NUMBER: 136.33	CHANGE: -0.05%	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	26189	47112	1.680	1.670	
JORDAN MINERALS MINERAL	300	765	2.600	2.550	
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1050	3031	2.880	2.880	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2081	4749	2.260	2.270	
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	900	945	1.060	1.050	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	6050	7255	1.200	1.190	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CORONADO HOTELS	1100	2468	2.260	2.240	
ARAB INT'L FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1700	5508	3.220	3.240	
SERVICES SECTOR					
	41450	72276	INDEX NUMBER: 129.34	CHANGE: -0.04%	
ATTAMQEE CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	500	605	1.230	1.210	
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	10368	38110	3.700	3.690	
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	3150	9519	3.050	3.030	
TAIBA GROUP	14	7356	1.400	1.370	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	2852	2098	10.400	10.370	
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	2450	8137	3.350	3.350	
THE JORDAN WOOLST MILLS	1250	9625	7.750	7.700	
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	26056	136146	5.140	5.220	
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	626	3648	5.820	5.830	
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	1250	3150	2.510	2.520	
DAIRY & DAIRY DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2150	16663	7.800	7.750	
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	5000	3935	.790	.770	
ARAB AL-KHEDRAH INDUSTRY	14	515	5.200	5.150	
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	250	325	3.000	2.950	
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	5450	7840	1.450	1.430	
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	22000	55350	2.470	2.530	
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	3000	3270	1.080	1.090	
INTERARAB PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	900	2065	2.280	2.310	
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	60250	68083	1.090	1.130	
JOHNSON CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	750	3675	4.850	4.900	
JOHNSON STAINLESS-CHROME	1350	2174	1.610	1.760	
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARMA & CHEMICALS	3000	6600	2.200	2.210	
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	15800	53573	3.400	3.360	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	5550	11224	2.140	2.120	
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3600	6457	1.800	1.790	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR					
	179197	489177	INDEX NUMBER: 129.46	CHANGE: -0.19%	
GRAND TOTAL					
	298849	757743	INDEX NUMBER: 153.75	CHANGE: -0.26%	
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET					
	198395	232326			

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Maradona, Caniggia to join Boca Juniors

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Diego Maradona, whose worldwide soccer ban for drug abuse expires in September, signed a two-and-a-half year contract Monday with his old club, Boca Juniors.

Sitting in the club's cafeteria where he tearfully announced last September that he felt "as good as dead" and was quitting after receiving his second 15-month ban, Maradona, 34, said he was putting the past behind him.

"There's no point thinking of the bad times because I want to enjoy this wonderful moment," Maradona said.

He was flanked by former international teammate Claudio Caniggia, who also signed a one-year contract for the club.

Between them, Maradona and Caniggia have been sidelined for 43 months for drug-related offences in the last four years. Now, they are bidding to resurrect their careers in what Argentine soccer fans already are calling the "dream team."

"To be here with Caniggia

is a dream come true," said Maradona, who will be eligible to play again on Sept. 28. "We were both kicked out of soccer together and now we're returning together."

The exact terms of the two contracts were not disclosed, but unconfirmed press reports say Maradona will receive approximately \$8 million in wages and bonuses during his contract. Caniggia reportedly will earn \$1 million.

Maradona and Caniggia have been training for two weeks with Boca, Argentina's most popular club, which has won only one league title (1991) since Maradona guided them to the 1981 crown.

Just three months ago, Boca President Antonio Alegre asked Maradona not to watch home matches as his presence was putting too much pressure on the team and the manager.

Alegre said he would ask FIFA, the world's governing body of soccer, to ease Maradona's ban to allow him to start the new season in August.

"To be here with Caniggia

In 1981, Maradona left to play in Europe with Barcelona in Spain. Napoli in Italy and Sevilla in Spain. The stocky midfielder's career then was plagued by controversy.

In 1991 he was banned for 15 months for cocaine abuse while playing for Italy's Napoli. The following year, he was arrested in Buenos Aires for drugs possession.

In February 1994, he fired an air rifle at reporters outside his home, injuring four. The incident occurred the day after he was released by first division side Newell's Old Boys for repeatedly missing training sessions.

He was then kicked out of last year's World Cup finals after testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs after a much-publicised comeback.

Caniggia, then playing for Italy's AC Roma, was banned in March 1993 for 13 months after testing positive for cocaine after playing a league match. He played last year on loan for Portugal's Benfica.

Chief of cycling union is against mandatory helmets

FORLI, Italy (R) — The president of the International Cycling Union (UCI) was quoted on Tuesday as saying it would be "ridiculous" to force riders to wear crash helmets at all times during races.

"We have spoken a great deal about the tragedy of Fabio Casartelli and the problems of helmets," the Gazzetta Dello Sport quoted Hein Verbruggen as telling reporters at the World Junior cycling Championships in

Forli. "We have been debating this subject (the use of helmets) for four years and unfortunately we still have not found a solution," he said.

"Even on this occasion, the UCI has decided not to change its position: Forcing athletes to wear a helmet would be ridiculous in certain situations."

Italian Olympic champion Casartelli died last week during the Tour de France when he fractured his skull in a fall

during a fast descent on the 15th stage in the Pyrenees.

Casartelli, who left a widow and young son, was not wearing a crash helmet at the time. His death stunned Italy and prompted calls for the mandatory use of helmets.

There is currently no standard international ruling on the use of helmets. Some countries insist on riders wearing them in all races while others, such as France, do not.

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Arab Potash Company intends to erect a new plant to produce high purity industrial potash (min. 99.2% KCL, Dry basis). Dryer dust collected from existing potash refineries shall be considered the main suitable source for processing and producing 50,000 tonnes per year of high purity industrial potash, suitable for electrolysis in chlor - alkali industry and other chemical applications. This plant is to be located at the southern end of the Dead Sea, near the town of Safi / Jordan.

2. SCOPE OF THE CONTRACT

Contract shall cover design, engineering, procurement, supply, construction, commissioning, testing, start - up, and putting into normal operation, an industrial potash plant at Safi / Jordan, for the production of high purity industrial potash to be used as feed for producing caustic potash by hot crystallization process. Capacity of the plant shall be seven (7) tonnes per hour (50,000 tonnes per year). Supply of material and all construction of Electromechanical, civil works and buildings requirements shall be included in the contract.

3. PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Application documents for pre-qualification are available free of charge from:

Arab Potash Company Ltd.
Shmeisani - Purchasing Dept.
P.O.Box 1470, Amman - Jordan
Tel. 666165, 687289 Fax 674416

Completed applications are to be returned by August 31, 1995 to the Arab Potash Company - Shmeisani - Purchasing Dept.

S. Hawari
Managing Director

Hill suggests public show of reconciliation with Schumacher

BONN (AFP) — Damon Hill believes that he and archrival Michael Schumacher should make a public show of reconciliation this weekend, after weeks of sniping by the top two Formula One drivers.

Hill, in a lengthy interview with German magazine Bunte, suggests that he and the world champion get in the same car for the traditional driver parade around the Hockenheim circuit before Sunday's German Grand Prix.

The British driver told the magazine: "Pass on my idea to Schumacher ... let's get in the same car to show that we're sportsmen who believe in fair-play. Usually, only team-mates are in together."

"I'm keen to know if Michael would agree."

The two men have had scrapes both on and off the circuits this season, but both now appear willing to bury the hatchet.

Schumacher described Hill as a "good man" and said Hill's shunt at the British Grand Prix, which put

both men out of the race, just showed the Englishman's desire to win.

Hill was even more complimentary about Schumacher, who also leads this year's driver's championship, telling Bunte: "For me, he is the great talent of the last 10 years. Someone who wins the world championship at 25 must be considered as one of the greatest in Formula One history."

Asked about which of Schumacher's qualities Hill would like to have, the Englishman replied: "The nine years that he has less than me, and his experience. Obviously, I'm older but he has been driving longer than me — in karting and motor racing. No-one can take that away from him."

As for their row over the Silverstone shunt, when Hill tried to squeeze through on the inside of a tight bend, the Williams driver said: "Our accident was damaging for Formula One. I don't want to have a personal quarrel with him, I don't really know him."

"All I know is that he's an extraordinary driver."

The Englishman also sought to distance himself from remarks about the German in which he called him a sponsors' "clone."

"Drivers who have too many advertising commitments sometimes behave like robots ... what I said is that with the pressure and the sponsors, some drivers seem to me to be clones."

On a personal level, Bunte also asked Hill about his former world champion father, Graham, who died in a plane crash when his son was 15. "His popularity has often weighed on me," he admitted. "I'm not really a believer, I don't pray before or after races, but I do know from my thoughts I know that he sees what I'm doing."

Hill also spoke about his handicapped son, and a foundation that receives money from Formula One, which the Englishman has started to help other handicapped children.



Damon Hill

Match-fixing case will drag on, says solicitor

LONDON (AFP) — The case against football trio Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers, at the centre of Segers' solicitor said here Tuesday.

The three are accused of conspiring together and with others to accept cash to influence the outcome of football matches.

Solicitor Mel Goldberg told GMTV: "On October 11 everyone will go back to Southampton magistrates court where they will have the opportunity of asking for the case to be retired either by the magistrates or by the Crown Court."

"It is very likely all parties will choose to go to Crown Court, so the October 11 hearing may be very short and it's likely the case will be heard next year."

"It's not good for Hans that this is hanging over his head. Any normal person would be worried. He would very much like the case to be

tomorrow so he can get on with playing football, which is what he does best."

Wimbledon goalkeeper Segers, who said he was "gobsmacked" when police charged him, maintains his innocence, as do Aston Villa striker Fashanu and Southampton goalkeeper Grobbelaar.

The trio, together with Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim and Fashanu's wife Melissa Kassa-Mapsi, face a total of 11 charges.

England's football authorities have taken the "innocent until proven guilty" approach with the Football Association (FA) confirming they would suspend their own investigations until all criminal proceedings are complete.

However, Gordon Taylor,

the Chief Executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), said:

"This case has cast a large shadow over the game. It will

be in everybody's interest for it to be sorted out as quickly as possible."

The charges, if proved, are clearly very damaging to football. They go to the very root of the game.

"All sport needs to be open and fair and particularly professional sport."

"I would hope it is resolved in the best interests of sport. The PFA has to take a back seat while the due process of law takes place."

"We have liaised with the players concerned and with their lawyers in some instances and will continue to monitor the situation."

"If the charges are proven to the players concerned will have to bear the consequences. Football does not claim to be above the law."

"If the charges are proved great damage will be done to football and the game will have to deal with the culprits."

Both Southampton and Wimbledon were quick to offer support for their goalkeepers.

Grobbelaar's solicitor David Hewitt said: "From the outset, Bruce has denied any involvement whatsoever in any criminal activity and he maintains that denial today as strongly as he ever has. These proceedings will be vigorous."

Zimbabwean F.A. chairman Leo Mugabe also pledged his support, adding: "Our stance is still the same. We stand by Grobbelaar. He remains innocent until the court finds him guilty."

Hewitt confirmed police had returned Grobbelaar's passport. He is due to play for Zimbabwe against Cameroon in the African Nations Cup on Sunday.

Portugal to protest against FIFA rap

LISBON (R) — Portugal, under threat of a World Cup ban, plan to protest over

FIFA's censure of their decision to replay a first division match because of alleged refereeing errors and an order to restore the original result.

"I wasn't just surprised but quite revolted by this shocking decision from FIFA," Vitor Vasques, president of the Portuguese football federation, told the Daily Record newspaper in an interview published Tuesday.

"We're going to meet with ... UEFA and we won't fail to make our protest after carefully analysing the whole case."

Federation officials were not available to confirm Vasques' remarks that Portugal would lodge a protest with the European game's governing body.

FIFA warned both national governing bodies of a possible World Cup ban for any repetitions and ordered them to restore the original result.

The Portuguese federation annulled the result of the April 30 match between Lisbon rivals Benfica and Sporting and ordered a replay after controversial decisions by the referee.

Germany's DFB did likewise with the June 11 second division game between Chemnitz and Leipzig. Chemnitz won the first match 3-2 but lost the second 1-0. DFB spokesman Wolfgang

Niersbach said the German federation would follow the FIFA ruling.

"Fortunately the decision does not have any influence on promotion or relegation matters," he said. "The DFB respects the decisions of referees just as FIFA does. Our committee came to the conclusion that the referee had broken the rules."

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North-South Vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH

♦ A Q 10 3

♦ K 10 5 2

* K 8

WEST EAST

♦ ♦ 8 7 3

♦ ♦ K 7

♦ ♦ Q 7 4

♦ ♦ J 10 7 5

EAST SOUTH

♦ ♦ 9 6 4 2

♦ ♦ A Q 10 5

♦ ♦ 8 5 4

♦ ♦ K 6

* A Q 3

The bidding:

North East South West

1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

Probability of one of two finesse successes is 3-to-1 in your favor. Those are pretty good odds, but if you can improve on that at no cost, why not?

West led the jack of clubs and a cursory glance at dummy might lead to the conclusion that, to get home, declarer must find West with either the king or a queen of clubs to take two finesses in the suit. While this is clearly the primary line, there is one additional chance that should be tested first, made possible by the ten of diamonds on the table combined with a normal trump division.

Declarer won the first trick in dummy with the king and immediately drew the outstanding trump in three rounds. Next came the king and ace of diamonds, followed by a diamond ruff. When both the queen and jack of diamonds came down, declarer ten was promoted to the leading trick and declarer had the luxury of taking the heart finesse in a forlorn attempt to score an overtrick.

It is not easy to spot the extra chance in the diamond suit. Indeed, who that was played in a pair tournament, the vast majority of players who bid the slam failed by a trick when both heart finesses lost.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1995, 11

Brazil looks for scapegoats for its Copa America loss

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Brazilians on Monday grouped to explain how their World Cup champions had lost the America Cup to Uruguay. There was no shortage of scapegoats.

Many picked Goalie Claudio Taffarel, who stood frozen as Uruguay scored on a free kick. Others cited attacker Tulio, who blew his shot in the penalty-kick tie-breaker. Of course, there was the referee — and even a mystic taboo.

The upshot was a 1-1 (4-2) victory for Uruguay in Montevideo on Sunday, Brazil, which has never won the continental championship away from home, once again was frustrated.

"The celebration for the unprecedented title is postponed," read a headline Monday in the Rio daily *Jornal do Brasil*.

"Uruguayans have the party and the taboo continues," wrote the newspaper *O Estado de São Paulo*.

Brazil dominated the first period, taking a 1-0 lead when Tulio chested in a cross from Edmundo in the 29th minute. But Uruguay took charge in the second half and tied the game on a free kick in the 51st minute.

Taffarel, who looked shaky throughout the tournament, was roundly criticised for failing to move on the kick.

"Going for the ball is a fundamental obligation of the goalie," wrote soccer col-

umnist Sergio Noronha.

Taffarel had to explain over and over what had happened.

"I was surprised," he said in an interview Monday in Porto Alegre, in southern Brazil. "The Uruguayans screened me, and when I was about to go for the ball it was too late."

In the tie-break, it was Tulio's turn to be the goat. His shot in the centre of the goal was blocked by Uruguayan keeper Fernando Alvez, and his teammates were flawless in their attempts.

Taffarel, who blocked a penalty kick against Italy to give Brazil and World Cup title last summer and two more against Argentina in the America Cup quarterfinal, came up empty against Uruguay.

"First in the world, second in the Americas," said the Rio daily *O Dia*. "Tulio hands over the gold... the heroes against Argentina fail at the decisive moment."

For President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the culprit was Mexican referee Arturo Brizio. He invalidated a second Brazilian goal on grounds that Tulio was offside, although the attacker was not involved in the play.

"He took a goal away from us," Cardoso said in Brasilia, the capital.

"His minister of sports disagreed. Edson Arantes do



Supporters of the Uruguayan soccer team celebrate their team's win (AFP photo)

Nascimento — better known as Pele — said the problem was the line judge who kept signalling offside.

"Every time Brazil attacked, he raised his hand," said

Pele. The defeat evoked memories of Brazil's historic 2-1 loss to Uruguay in the final of the 1950 World Cup in Rio, when nearly 200,000 fans in Maracana Stadium.

"The Brazilian team couldn't break the taboo... and Brazil is silent again," wrote the Rio daily *Jornal*

Malaysia beats Jordan in Asian Women's Basketball Championship

By Aileen Banayan
in Shizuoka

out in the last eight minutes of the match, while Hala Muheisin and Hind Ghouri carried four fouls.

Jordan will Wednesday play Hong Kong in the six-nation Level B competition.

In other Level B matches Tuesday, the Philippines beat Hong Kong 73-64 and Thailand overcame Indonesia 63-26.

It certainly was not Jordan's day as the team missed the efforts of two key players: Suhair Makusi, who was injured during warm-up Monday, and Jehane Abdounour, who suffered an ankle injury in the first half of Tuesday's match.

The Kingdom's team, regrouped after a 12-year absence and playing in their first Asian championship, displayed the ill-effects of having only four practice matches prior to the championship. On the other hand, the Malaysian team proved they were playing for the Level B trophy as they had a full court-press defence throughout most of the match. Malaysia won the first half 43-15.

Jordan improved in the second half which ended 39-23 for Malaysia. Junama Saiti was Jordan's top scorer with 17 points. Saiti and Rania Dajani were fouled

Kazakhstan 107-39 and Taiwan beat Kyrgyzstan 109-64.

On the opening day, defending champion China trounced Kazakhstan 156-42, South Korea beat Kyrgyzstan 122-63 and Japan beat Taiwan 98-75.

Level A's top three teams will represent Asia in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

The top two teams in a round robin among the six teams meet Sunday to decide the champion. The next two in the round robin standings meet the same day to determine the winner of the third place.

Snippets from Shizuoka

* Jordan's delegation received a Fax from Jordan's Ambassador in Tokyo Farouq Qasrawi who stressed the importance of the Kingdom's participation in the championship and confirmed that he would attend Jordan's match against Hong Kong Wednesday.

* The Jordanian team is the favourite of the crowds, with fans always asking players for autographs. The reason, it seems, is that it is the only Arab team participating in the championship, travelling from the other edge of Asia to play in Japan. This seems also to be the reason for the encouragement and praise which the team receives from other teams' coaches and officials.

* Certainly it was not Jordan's day! Not only were the team's players Jehane and Suhair injured, but also the Japanese guide accompanying the delegation had an ankle injury.

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U.S. official says success of MENA will largely depend on private sector

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The success of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA), which will be held in Amman in October, will depend on efforts the private sector and the countries of the region are prepared to exert despite international support for the event, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

Joel Spero, U.S. under-secretary of State for business, economic and agricultural affairs, said the success of the summit largely hinges on the private sector initiatives rather than those of the governments.

In a Worldnet dialogue via satellite, Ms. Spero told participants in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan, that the aim of organising MENA was to attract small and medium-size businesses to take an active role in the development of the region.

"The whole idea of organising (MENA) is not to let the governments pay the money," she said. "What

the governments will spend is aimed at mobilising the private sector."

Ms. Spero said that although Americans and Europeans will help in organising and encouraging investors all over the world to take an effective part in the summit and initiate joint ventures, the Middle East countries, including Arab Gulf states, should have a pivotal role in initiating ventures.

"The development of the region will benefit everybody. We are urging our expatriates in many countries to participate. We are working heavily with small businesses, but we need businesses initiated from the region itself. If we know the region well, the people in the region know it better than us," she said.

"Syrians have been definitely invited by the Jordanians and are welcomed to attend even though they have not reached a peace agreement with Israel," Ms. Spero said.

She said while international experts are still studying the proposal for ex-

pecting up a Middle East development bank the European stand on the proposal is still unclear.

"Not all European countries have the same stand. Some are sceptical, some are enthusiastic. But we hope to reach an agreement before the summit" is held, she said.

Ms. Spero said the bank will primarily aim at facilitating and encouraging regional cooperation to initiate business ventures and bring capital to the region.

Asked about the difference in amounts of aid the U.S. gives to Arab countries and Israel, Ms. Spero said the U.S. is cutting down on its budget expenses for international programmes. She said that the U.S. is directing its attention towards the role of the private sector in the development of the region rather than letting the countries depend on foreign aid.

"There needs to be a political signal and the governments have to play a role in that ... We cannot change the psychology of the people in the region overnight. But the process of confidence-building is being established in Casablanca and Amman."

"But Amman is only a landmark, it has to be followed," she said.

MENA's plenary session will focus on four major themes: trade and industry, infrastructure, investment and finance, and the economic environment.

ferred to make investors feel more secure.

"The region has been under-developed because of instability," she said. "Safety and security encourage capital to come back. If you (succeed) in bringing back capital, the whole region will blossom."

"But the peace process is not enough," Ms. Spero said, adding that business interaction between Egypt and Israel did not develop significantly despite the signing of a peace treaty between the two states over 15 years ago.

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STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE: Bosnian villagers took position outside Sarajevo Tuesday from the hamlet of Pazaric fork near a British rapid deployment force convoy. The

Baghdad destroys missile-making machines

DUBAI (AP) — Iraq has destroyed five machines for making banned missile engines, three years after it declared they had been eliminated in Gulf war raids, a U.N. source in the region said Tuesday.

Iraq, which has promised to disclose all aspects of its germ warfare programme by the end of July, also gave a draft report on the programme to U.N. experts visiting Baghdad last week. The U.N. source said without giving details.

The U.N. missile monitoring team, which is based in Baghdad, "oversaw the destruction" in the last week of the five machines Iraq acquired for making missile engines, according to the source who requested anonymity.

Rolf Ekeus, the head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, said after a mission to Baghdad a month ago that Iraq "stated that it refused to work out a final report.

The United States has taken a harder line on lifting sanctions, demanding that Iraq also comply with non-weapons resolutions such as the return of Kuwait prisoners and respect for human rights.

UNSCOM has sent 121 special missions to Baghdad since 1992 to oversee the dismantling of Iraq's banned weapons programme, UN officials said.

It has also set up a permanent weapons monitoring programme in Baghdad, run by a rotating staff of almost 100 people, including nuclear, chemical and missile experts, helicopter crews and support staff, they said.

It took UNSCOM until this year to identify the equipment Iraq acquired for a project to make missile engines. Mr. Ekeus said in a July 2 report.

Iraq had "declared in its 'Full, Final and Complete Disclosure' in the missile area of May 1992, that the enemy air raids... resulted in a total destruction of all machines and equipment" of this project, he recalled.

Under U.N. Resolution 687 passed after the 1991 Gulf war, Iraq must eliminate

all ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres and related major parts, and repair and production facilities."

Under the ceasefire resolution, Iraq must also eliminate its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and completely with long-term monitoring before the oil embargo can be lifted.

Although the U.N. source said Iraq had handed over a draft on its germ warfare programme, he declined to say how close Iraq has come to fulfilling a promise to disclose all aspects of the programme by the end of July.

The draft report submitted to the UNSCOM team led by Richard Spertzel must be checked and Mr. Ekeus said is due to return to Baghdad to work out a final report.

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